

BOYS LIFE of CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH



ELEANOR
H
JOHNSON



Class F 229

Book 5748

Copyright N^o _____

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.



THE HERO OF JAMESTOWN.

Bronze statue of Captain John Smith, by William Couper, of New York, unveiled at Jamestown Island, September, 1907, by the Society for the Preservation of Virginia antiquities.

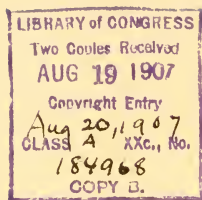
Boys' Life
of
Captain John Smith

ELEANOR H. JOHNSON



New York
THOMAS Y. CROWELL & CO.
PUBLISHERS

F229
S726



Copyright, 1907,
BY THOMAS Y. CROWELL & CO.



*To all American Boys who are interested
in the Beginnings of their Country*

“What so truly suits with honor and honesty as the discovering things unknown? erecting towns, peopling countries, informing the ignorant, reforming things unjust, teaching virtue; and gain to our native mother-country a kingdom to attend her?”

JOHN SMITH.

PREFACE.

DEAR BOYS:

In telling over for you the life of this brave man, I have followed as nearly as possible his own words. If I have emphasized his virtues and said little about his faults, it is because I feel sure that we understand people best when we look for their good points. This does not mean that we must refuse to see their weaknesses, but that after all the virtues are more important.

Some writers do not believe that much John Smith has said of himself is true. All that we, who do believe him, can say is that so far as we know, it has never been disproved; and though his words are often boastful and full of exaggerations, that sort of autobiography was very much the custom of his time. Modesty was not so much the fashion then as it is now.

PREFACE.

I have added to this life of John Smith some of his letters, and hope that when you have finished the book you will be enough interested in him to read those, too. One of his soldiers said of him when he was in Virginia that he loved actions not words. I think when we have read his life through we shall rather say that he loved action first and words next. And because he did love to write about his deeds and his opinions, we must read some of these brave and straightforward words the better to understand his brave and straightforward character.

E. H. J.

APRIL, 1907.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Boyhood of John Smith, and How He Learned to be a Soldier	9
II. He Goes to Fight the Turks	22
III. The Siege of Ober Limbach, and Other Battles	33
IV. Taken Prisoner, He Escapes and Finally Reaches England	49
V. The Journey to America	64
VI. The Trip up the James	83
VII. Captain Newport's Departure, and Distress in the Colony	97
VIII. Discoveries on the Chickahominy, and Cap- ture of Smith	114
IX. The Story of Pocahontas	133
X. A Second Visit to Powhatan	148
XI. Troubles with the Indians	164
XII. The Discovery of Chesapeake Bay	179
XIII. President John Smith of Virginia	199
XIV. The Final Victory over the Savages, and Captain Smith's Departure	222
XV. John Smith, Admiral of New England	243
XVI. The Death of Captain John Smith and of His Indian Friends	259
Appendix	278

I.

BOYHOOD OF JOHN SMITH, AND HOW HE LEARNED TO BE A SOLDIER.

When Columbus discovered America in the year 1492, he opened a sort of training school for heroes,—himself the greatest hero of them all. For following his splendid example, men everywhere began enthusiastically to sail the seas in little ships, which we should think hardly large enough to use on lakes or rivers, searching for lands to conquer for their king, for savages to convert to their religion, and for honor and riches and sometimes knowledge for themselves. And from this time on for the next hundred years and more, the history of Europe is more interesting than the most exciting tale of adventures, if we

think of it not as plain history but as a collection of stories of the lives of great men.

Spain and England were ahead in all this sailing and fighting, and being ahead they were great rivals, hating each other bitterly and always at war. Many English lords became famous in these days, either because of victories in the battles with Spain or through their long and perilous journeys to unknown lands,—and they of course were admired and revered by every schoolboy who learned of their heroic deeds. Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh and many more like them became the types of courage and chivalry; and to fight for his country or to gain more land and wealth for her beyond the seas, was the true knight's ambition.

In the midst of these thrilling times, in the year 1579, a boy named John Smith was born in the town of Willoughby in Lincolnshire, England. His father, George Smith, was a farmer and held his lands

under Lord Willoughby, part of whose estate the little town was. This brave English nobleman had already become famous, for a ballad had been written about him, beginning:

“The fifteenth day of July,
With glistening spear and shield,
A famous fight in Flanders,
Was foughten in the field.
The most courageous officers
Were English captains three,
But the bravest man in battel
Was the brave Lord Willoughbie.”

Though George Smith finally became owner of most of his lands he always felt that he owed service and loyalty to his former landlord; and his children were brought up to regard that “generous Lord Willoughby and famous soldier,” as John calls him, as their gracious friend and noble hero.

The little town of Willoughby was within easy walking distance of the sea, and while there were many farms in the region, much of the talk the boys were likely to hear was

12 LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

of the sea and sailors. George Smith was of a good family, many of his ancestors having been men who fought and died bravely for their country; and although he owned much land and was interested in farming it properly, John, the oldest boy, inherited the fighting spirit and grew up with a great desire to go on adventures of some kind.

There were two other children in the family, a younger boy and a little girl, and their life was much like the life of country children now. There were many out-door games and these with the chores and the lessons kept the days busy. John's mother died when he was quite young; when he was old enough he was sent to school in a town near by and probably worked on the farm after school, for later in his life he remembered this work in a way that proved very useful to the people who followed and depended on him—as you shall see. But he liked neither school nor farming, and when he was thirteen

years old decided to run away to sea. The only way in which he could get money for his trip to the nearest port was by selling his books and the bag he carried them in, and this he was very willing to do.

But just as John was starting out on his secret adventure, his father was taken very sick. John was not fond of study and he did want to have his own way and to see and to do new things, but he was not a bad boy and loved his father dearly. So he stayed at home forgetting his wonderful plans in his sorrow over his father's illness. At last George Smith died leaving to his oldest son some money and a good piece of land; and all of this legacy, as John was so young, was put into the hands of guardians.

The other children were probably taken charge of by relatives, but John stayed around the farm for two years more. His guardians were more interested in the land than they were in the boy who owned it, and there was no one to find out what he

14 LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

was best fitted for. He had given up his plan of running away to sea, sobered for the present by his father's death, and we can imagine him growing more restless and unhappy until finally his idleness was noticed and he was bound out as an apprentice to a well-known merchant of a sea-port near by. Boys were often made apprentices in those days, living with their masters, learning the trade, and giving all their time in return for food and lodging and the good start in business. John was bound out for a term of eight years, and as the merchant, Thomas Sendall, had many ships which sailed to all parts of the world, the boy was very willing to work on the chance of being sent to sea.

When a year of work for master Sendall had passed and still no promise of being a sailor, John's stock of patience, small enough at best, quite gave out and he ran away again, this time in good earnest. I am afraid he had not been a very useful boy to his master, as the punishment

for a run-away apprentice was very severe, and the merchant had full power to inflict this whipping and imprisonment or to demand a sum of money from his guardians; yet we hear of no effort on the part of anybody to get John to go back. Instead of being caught and punished, he like Dick Whittington, started to tramp to London, for this is the place where all ambitious run-aways wished to go; and on his way he fell in with young Peregrine Bertie, son of his first hero, Lord Willoughby, and probably an early playmate.

This was finding a friend indeed, and John was the more delighted when he learned that Peregrine was on his way to France to join his older brother, and would take his old friend with him as one of his attendants. On their way through London they found John's guardians who, as John tells us, "liberally gave him out of his own estate 10 shillings to be rid of him." Ten shillings in that day equalled about \$12 of our money and was a much larger sum

16 LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

than it seems to us now. John's needs were not great, a nobleman always paid the expenses of his attendants, and, at any rate, John was a happy boy for here was his chance to see the world.

But when they presently reached the town of Orleans in France and met the older brother, Robert, the arrangement was found not to be a good one. Lord Willoughby had lost much money during the wars and the expense of an extra attendant was more than he could afford; besides his two sons were there to study and John was looking for adventures. He did not yet know, being only sixteen and very wilful, that it takes as much study to be a good soldier or sailor as to learn any other kind of trade. So after a month or two it was thought best to send him back to London, giving him money for the journey.

But John still wanted to see the world, and with all the world before him to choose from, he did not at all intend to go back to London. Instead he turned his steps

toward Paris and there met a worthy Scotchman, one David Hume. The two foreigners in Paris stood by each other, John sharing his very humble fortune with Hume, while the latter gave him letters of recommendation to people in Scotland, where the Hume family was a well-known one. These letters did prove of some value to him as we shall see later.

Paris was then, as it is now, full of gayety and excitement. But in the days of Henry of Navarre it was also the centre of intrigue and conspiracy and many were the fierce quarrels between men of different political and religious parties. All nationalities were gathered there and nowhere was our hero more likely to meet with adventures of some sort. But he tells us nothing of what happened. English and Scotch boys were apt to be well-built, sturdy lads, and John and David in any encounter they may have had with French or Italian boys of their own age were pretty sure to come out victorious.

Whatever they did they used up all John's money, and when he finally decided to leave Paris and turned his face toward England he found on getting only as far as Rouen that he was almost penniless. The wars in France were just over and the country was full of soldiers of fortune who were looking for some other land where their services might be needed. All this appealed very much to John's love of adventure and he determined to join some of these men; besides it might be a way of making his fortune. So he went to Havre, the nearest sea-port, joined the troops under Captain Joseph Duxbury, one of these professional fighters, and there first began to learn the life of a soldier.

At this time there was war in Holland, for the brave little country was fighting hard against Spain, and Captain Duxbury gladly led his company there to enlist under some Dutch general. John fought against the Spaniards, who were as well the foes of England, for three or four years, and when

the war was over and Holland was free from the tyranny of Spain, John remembered his letters to Hume's Scotch friends. As a common soldier and a very young one at that, he had gained no fame but much experience and a real interest in his profession, and perhaps thought of entering the service of King James of Scotland. But nothing went well; he was shipwrecked on an island on his way and was sick there for some time; and though he finally reached Scotland and was received with great kindness, the money he had gained in the wars was all gone and there was nothing for it but to go home. He might not have been able even to do that if it had not been for the generosity of Hume's friends. They fitted him out and would have sent him to the king, but on further consideration he decided that the life of a courtier was not to his mind, and besides he had no money.

So to Willoughby he went though still wishing above all things to be a soldier, as we shall soon see. For, tiring of the

life in the little country town and caring no more for the farm than he did at first, he built him a hut of boughs out in the woods and there lived, studying books on war and practising with his horse and lance till he grew to be a most skilful rider and very sure of aim. You see he was older now and had learned that even to be a good soldier and adventurer, study was necessary.

It must have been a good deal like camping out and very pleasant for a while; for food he could shoot plenty of deer and his servant brought him things from the village. But such a life could not last long for a youth of twenty who still wanted to see the world and besides his friends began to worry about him. They did not think it the right sort of life for a young man to lead, and no doubt hoped to interest him in some valuable employment befitting his condition. Perhaps they wished him to be a merchant or a lawyer. As they had no influence on him themselves they sent some

one whom he would be sure to listen to, an Italian of good birth who was keeper of the horse for the Earl of Lincoln and who had traveled much himself and knew a great deal about horses and the practice of arms. He took John to stay with him at the Earl's country place near by, where there was opportunity to learn all about the things in which Smith delighted, and also to see something of people it would be valuable for him to know. But, as he says, "long these pleasures could not content him," and taking more of the money his father left him he went back to Holland in search of real fighting.

II.

HE GOES TO FIGHT THE TURKS.

During these early years of John Smith's life, most of the known world was engaged in religious wars of some sort. England had changed from a Catholic to a Protestant nation and Spain, as the great Catholic country, was her deadly enemy. France was divided—at one time under a Catholic prince, at another under a Protestant, and the different parties were constantly at war. Holland was the stronghold of Protestants and in bitter war with Spain which was trying to conquer it. Smith, as we have seen, began his soldiering in France where his leader was probably a Protestant or Huguenot, as they were called there. Then when things became more peaceful there,

he went with this same leader to Holland to fight against Spain; and now finding on this, his second visit, that things were quieter in Holland, and, as he says, "both lamenting and repenting to have seen so many Christians slaughter one another" he longed to go and fight the Turks, who were the deadly foes of Catholic and Protestant alike, and always at war with them somewhere. Holland having been so lately at war there were soldiers from all countries gathered there, and John hoped that among them he might find a leader who would take him to try his fortunes against these heathen enemies of the Christians.

And now began those wonderful adventures which some historians have refused wholly to believe in. I am going to set them down as nearly in John Smith's own words as possible, and then we must choose for ourselves. However we choose, I am sure we cannot fail to believe that we are reading about a brave and honorable man who loved the life of a soldier but loved

kindness and fair dealing as well, especially as he grew older.

Chance threw our hero then, while in Holland, into the company of four gallant Frenchmen who pretended that they were a great lord and his three gentlemen and all devoted friends. They persuaded Smith to go with them to France where they said they knew the wife of a noble Frenchman, the Duc de Mercœur or Duke Mercury, as Smith always called him, who had gone into Hungary to fight on the side of the Emperor of Germany against the Turks. The Duchess of Mercury, they assured him, would give them money and letters to her husband, and then they would join him on the field, and so John's purpose would be accomplished. He gladly set out with them in a little ship, though it was winter and they were likely to be hindered by storms. But when they neared the coast of France and came by night into a shallow bay to seek protection from the bad gales, this pretended French lord and his companions

turned out to be rogues and villiains. Seeing that Smith had better clothes than they had and more of them, they plotted with the captain of the ship to send them and their trunks ashore taking Smith's along with them, while Smith was to wait until the boat should come back for him, which it did not do before evening of the next day. We wonder that he should have been so easily taken in by any such plot, for it seems that the other passengers all knew what sort of men these were, and were so angry with the captain they almost took his ship away from him and threw him overboard.

Instead of that fitting punishment for the captain, Smith himself was set on shore with only the clothes he had on and one penny in his pocket, having been obliged to sell his cloak in order to pay his passage. He had, however, gained the friendship of one man, Curzanvere, a soldier and an outlaw, as it afterwards appeared. He said that he knew the thieving Frenchmen and

would take Smith to where he could find them, in the meantime sharing his purse with him.

So they traveled through that part of France, Smith seeing much that was of interest historically and always adding to his knowledge of the way men make war. When they finally reached the little town of Mortagne where both Curzanvere and the pretended lord lived, Smith's friend and benefactor was afraid to show his face for fear of the authorities; and though his relatives were kind and hospitable, they also seemed to be afraid of the law and poor John was in no better case than when he left the ship. In fact he seems to have fallen into a nest of outlaws.

As he did not care to accept their hospitality when he could do nothing to return it, and saw that he would gain nothing by staying longer, he left the town and wandered on from port to port hoping that he could find some great soldier whom he could follow to the wars. Finally having

spent all the money Curzanvere had so generously given him, he wandered on ashamed to beg, and was found at last by a rich farmer under a tree, nearly dead from grief and cold. This kind peasant warmed and fed him and helped him on his way; and not many days later in a wood he suddenly came on one of the treacherous Frenchmen who had stolen his clothes and who was in a worse plight than himself.

Smith did not stop to question but drew his sword and rushed at the man furiously, and the two began to fight. Some countrymen looking on from a ruined tower near by saw the fight and came to the assistance of the Frenchman just in time to hear him confess, after Smith had wounded him, that he and his companions had stolen Smith's trunk and were going to divide the booty between them but that he was cheated out of his share.

So John gave up his revenge and left the thief to the care of these men. He

himself started out to seek the Earl of Ployer, a French lord who had been educated in England and who he had been told was glad to befriend Englishmen who were in trouble. Sure enough the Earl received him gladly, and after showing the enthusiastic young traveler the sights of that part of France where he lived, lent him money enough to enable him to journey through the South of France visiting the principal cities and inspecting their fortifications. With all his love of travel and sightseeing, Smith never forgot his interest in war and was always eager to learn the best ways of carrying it on.

At Marseilles he took ship for Italy, but it seems as if he never started on a journey without immediately getting into trouble. The weather was bad and when it began to storm heavily, the passengers, many of whom were going on pilgrimages to Rome, became very much alarmed; and though the ship put toward shore where the sea was shallow and quieter, they were still fright-

ened and superstitious. Finally they swore that it was all because of John Smith; that he was not only a heretic but that all Englishmen were pirates; and so railing against Queen Elizabeth, then ruler of England, and saying they never should have fair weather while John was on the ship, they threw him overboard.

This would seem to have been the worst misfortune of them all, yet, as he tells us, "God brought him to a little Isle where there were no inhabitants, only a few cattle and goats," and next morning he spied and hailed two ships riding by, also driven in by the storm. Captain La Roche was master of these two small vessels and knew the Earl of Ployer. So when they had taken Smith on board and he had told them of his friendship with the Earl, the captain and his officers received him with such kindness that he tells us, "he was well content to try the rest of his fortune with them."

In that day many merchantmen carried guns and besides trade, carried on what we should consider piracy. Every ship belonging to another country, particularly one that had ever been hostile, was lawful prey, and we may be sure that Captain La Roche was keeping his eyes open for prizes and booty. So the two little merchantmen with their guns sailed around the south of Spain toward Italy, stopping at various points for cargo. At last they came across two Venetian ships laden with rich freight and someone fired a shot killing one man. The ship Smith was on immediately responded and a desperate fight followed in which the brave Frenchmen were successful. They boarded the Venetian craft, took as much booty as they wished and set them free, leaving behind as much good merchandise as would have freighted another French boat; and so kept on their way.

Smith's share of the booty was about

\$1,000 and a valuable little box, and this made him for the time a very rich man. He asked to be put ashore in the south of Italy, hoping to do more of the sightseeing which he so loved, and at the same time to carry on his search for a chance to go to war. On his way up to Rome he found his two old friends, Robert and Peregrine Bertie, "cruelly wounded in a desperate fray yet to their exceeding great honor," and we hope he was able to do something to repay them for their former kindness to him, but that he does not tell us. He does describe many of the interesting things he saw in a way that shows how much he was enjoying this chance to travel and how he was adding all the time to his education and experience. Besides seeing many things of great interest he met many people, among them an old friend, Lord Ebersbaugh, and now it seems as if at last Smith's great desire was to be realized. For the Earl recommended the young wan-

32 LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

derer to a worthy Colonel, the Earl of Meldritch, who was going to Vienna where there was war against the Turks, and whose regiment Smith could join.

III.

THE SIEGE OF OBER LIMBACH, AND OTHER BATTLES.

The Turks had been fighting in Austria and Hungary for some time and had won several battles, and were now besieging Olumpagh, as Smith always calls the town of Ober Limbach. When the regiment Smith belonged to reached Vienna, it was at once assigned to the forces under Baron Kisell, and this general and his army were ordered to go to the relief of the besieged town. On his way John learned that his old friend, Lord Ebersbaugh, was governor of this town and was imprisoned there, having arrived just before the siege. As Baron Kisell had only 10,000 men and the Turks numbered twice as many, it was very

important that at once there should be some communication between the town and the army which had come to help it. When Smith met Lord Ebersbaugh in Italy, they had talked over together certain signals made by waving lights, and the young soldier immediately thought that such a scheme might be useful at this critical time, if indeed his friend remembered their conversation. All through Smith's life we shall find that he was brave and resourceful in times of grave emergency and never failed those who trusted and relied on him. He asked his general therefore to give him men and torches that he might go to a hill near by and signal the town, and the Baron was glad to let him try his experiment.

Smith set up three torches on the top of the hill, and pretty soon out shone three torches from the town, showing that the besieged general saw and remembered. Then Smith spelled out this message,—waving the torch a certain number of times for each letter, Ebersbaugh repeating each

time to show that he understood: "On Thursday at night I will charge on the East, at the alarm do you start out." This was a very slow and clumsy way of doing what we do so quickly now by the process called wigwagging, but it seemed very wonderful then, and certainly accomplished its purpose.

In the mean time spies sent out by the general had come back saying that the enemy's forces were divided into two parts by a river. This made Smith think of another scheme, that they should fasten two or three thousand bits of fuse to lines stretched out on the other side of the city from the one where Baron Kisell would make his attack; and the general agreed to this also. They lighted these pieces of fuse just before the attack was made, and the Turks, thinking it was a line of soldiers firing their muskets,—for guns in that day were set off by putting a lighted match to the touch-hole, started to attack that line. This took them away from the side the

Baron was planning to charge, and in a moment they were attacked on their unprotected flank by the troops from both inside and out of the city, and were thrown into confusion; and those who were not drowned or shot, fled. The general was so delighted with the success of our hero's experiments, that he gave him a command of 250 horsemen, and Smith became Captain John Smith, and as such he is known to this day.

Though a general peace was now proclaimed because of this great victory, the Turks had no intention of stopping their fighting, but instead they at once began to enlarge their armies. Whereupon the German Emperor, with the assistance of other Christian nations, placed three armies in the field, one of which was commanded by the French prince, whose wife has already been spoken of, Duke Mercury. It was under this general that Captain John Smith, still in the Earl of Meldritch's regiment, was to fight. This army was 30,000 strong, of which number nearly 10,000

were French, and with it Duke Mercury set out to besiege the town of Alba Regalis, a place so strong by art and nature, Smith tells us, that it was thought to be impregnable. At the approach of the army the Turks made a sally by night and attacking the German quarter slew nearly 500 and returned before it was known that they were there. The next night they did almost as much damage to the Hungarians and others near them,—the army seems to have been divided according to nationalities,—but when they tried the French they were surprised in their turn and lost eight or nine hundred men.

At last, being tired of these sorties and surprises, Earl Meldritch found out from refugees where there were the largest gatherings of people in the city, and then ordered Captain John Smith to make use of another device which he had learned on his travels, called the fiery dragons. These were made of round earthen pots filled with gunpowder covered with a mix-

ture of pitch, brimstone and turpentine. Into this mixture were stuck many musket balls, partly cut into four pieces, and all this deadly compound was covered with cloth made into a sort of fuse. These terrible dragons were fitted into slings and shot over the city as near to the crowded places of assembly as they could calculate. Captain Smith thus describes the result: "It was a fearful sight to see the short flaming course of their flight in the air, but presently after their fall the lamentable noise of the miserable slaughtered Turks was most wonderful to hear." In the midst of the general alarm different suburbs of the city were set on fire by the besiegers; and finally, stormed on all sides, the city fell into the hands of the French Duke and the Turkish ruler, or Bashaw, was taken prisoner in his own palace by Colonel Meldritch. The Duke was very proud of this prisoner and of the captured city, so long a stronghold of the Turks, and set about repairing it. The Turks with an army of

60,000 made efforts in several battles to retake the city but were repulsed each time, though with great loss to the Emperor's troops; in one of these fights Captain Smith's horse was killed under him and he himself was sore wounded.

Then came a time of inaction because of the serious defeats which the Turks had undergone; and the Duke, after dividing his army into three parts and giving them all different commissions, returned to Vienna where he received great honor for all he had accomplished, but where to the sorrow of all, he suddenly died.

In the division of his army Duke Mercury had sent the troops under the Earl of Meldritch, Smith's commander, to Transylvania. Here they found a mixed up state of things. Much of the beautiful and fertile little country was in the hands of the Turks, some was ruled over by a native prince, "who had the hearts of both country and people," and the German Emperor was eager to get possession of the

whole. And on the frontier, amongst the almost impassable mountains, were camps and garrisons, some for the Emperor, some for the Prince, and some in the hands of the hostile Turks.

Now Colonel Meldritch had been sent by the Duke, his general, to fight for the Emperor; but being a native Transylvanian himself, he was in sympathy with the native prince, whose name was Sigismund, and easily persuaded his soldiers to fight for him against the Turks, instead of for the Emperor against the Prince, as ordered. Prince Sigismund was delighted to have as brave an officer as the Earl and so many and experienced soldiers in his army. He showed this by making Meldritch camp-master of the whole army and giving him permission to plunder the Turks at will. The journey into the mountains had been made in the cold of a terrible winter and Smith gives us a little idea of how much the troops suffered from it by saying that the other army sent into the field had lost

three or four hundred men by freezing in a single night. So we can imagine these soldiers were most grateful for the kind reception given them by Prince Sigismund and were very willing to do battle for him; and we see Smith still able to fulfil his boyish wish, made when he left Holland, to fight the Turks rather than the Christians.

Then came sallies into the mountain fastnesses where were many Turks as well as bandits and outlaws. The city, Regall, which Meldritch wished to capture lay in the plain beyond and could be reached only through a narrow valley which the enemy held. This he gained possession of by means of a clever stratagem. He sent a small body of men through the valley driving before them a herd of cattle, and when the enemy saw how few soldiers were with the cattle they rushed out to capture them and were attacked in their turn by Meldritch and his men who were in hiding near by, and were all made prisoners. When by this means Meldritch reached the city

of Regall and decided to storm it, he found that they must wait about six days in order to bring their cannon over the rough roads through the hills. In the mean time his army lay inactive while the Turks made their city still stronger. Then they attacked the besiegers in their tents, and though the Turks were driven back to the gates, the loss on both sides was about 1500.

Finally the Transylvanian general appeared to reinforce Meldritch, with his army of 9000, and they all spent a month putting up entrenchments as a protection against the guns on the city walls. The Turks made great fun of all this seeming inactivity, said they were growing fat for lack of exercise, and at last sent this challenge to the Christians: "That to delight the ladies who did long to see some court-like pastime, the Lord Turbashaw (a Turkish officer) did defy any officer who had command of a company, who durst combat with him for his head." The challenge

was discussed in the Christian army and finally accepted, but there were so many captains eager to fight that they had to draw lots and the choice fell on Captain John Smith.

This was the age of tilt and trial by sword, and all both noble and low-born loved the sight of single combat. Truce was therefore declared for a time, the ramparts were covered with knights and fair ladies, and at the sound of music the Lord Turbashaw entered the field. He was very splendidly armed and accoutred and was attended by three soldiers. The onlookers had not long to wait before Smith appeared in much simpler array, attended only by one page carrying his lance. But when the trumpet sounded he made the charge with such effect that at his first blow he ran the Turk through the head and face with his lance so that he fell to the ground dead. Smith alighted, cut off his opponent's head, gave the body back to his friends, and returned without any hurt at

all. He was welcomed with joy by the whole army and presented the captured head to the general who graciously accepted it.

But the Turks were filled with rage, and one Gualgo, the friend of Lord Turbawshaw, sent a particular challenge to the victor to meet him on the field in single combat the next day: determined to regain his friend's head or to lose his own, with his horse and armor besides. This challenge was accepted and the meeting took place, and at the first shock the Turk was nearly unhorsed. Then came pistols and at the second shot the Turk was wounded in the left arm and fell to the ground, helpless. There Smith cut off his head and taking possession of that with the horse and armor, sent back his unlucky opponent's body in its rich clothing to the town. From that time on many light skirmishes took place, but as the soldiers were still working on the entrenchments and were not ready for a general battle,

His three single Combats Chap. 7.
His Encounter with TVRBASHAW Chap. 7.



SMITH'S ENCOUNTER WITH TURBASHAW.
From a print in Smith's "True Travels."

Captain Smith in his turn sent a challenge to the besieged town. He said he wished the ladies to know that he was not so eager to keep the heads of their admirers, and that if any one came to redeem them he should have his too if he could get it.

It seems strange that the Turks were not discouraged by this time, but on the contrary the challenge was at once accepted by a man Smith calls Bonny Mulgro. The fight this time was begun with pistols and as no hurt was done, battle axes followed, and with these the fight waxed fast and furious. Both soldiers were nearly unhorsed and Smith lost his axe, whereupon a great shout went up from the city walls. But they rejoined too soon, for though Bonny Mulgro prosecuted his advantage to the uttermost of his power, yet his opponent,—as he himself so graphically describes it—“by the readiness of his horse, and his judgment and dexterity beyond all men’s expectation, by God’s assistance, not only avoided the Turk’s violence, but

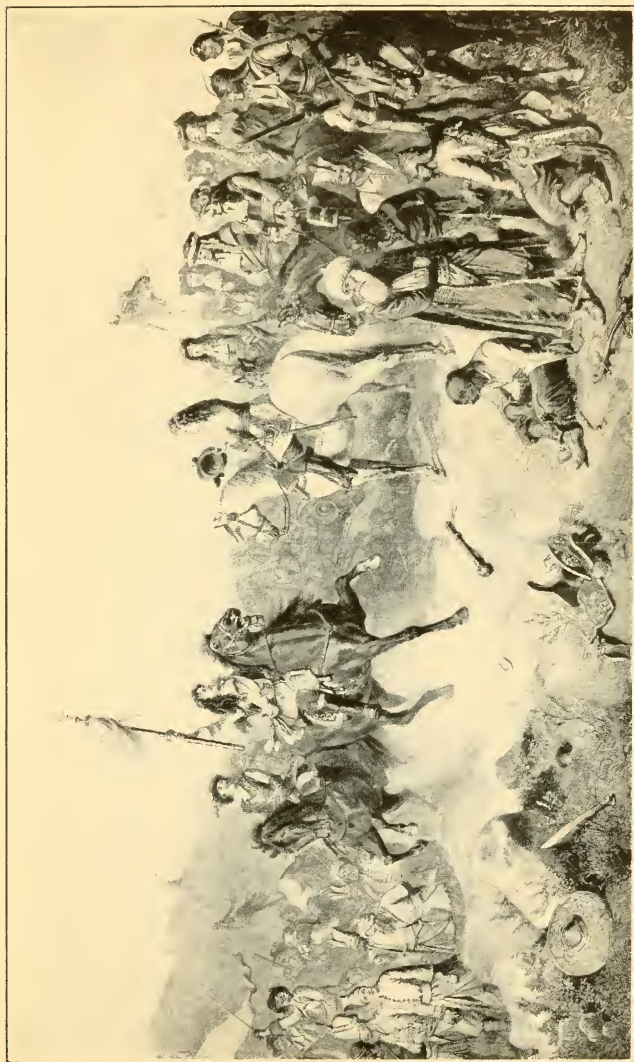
having drawn his sword, pierced the Turk through his body that he fell from his horse and lost his head as the rest had done." Here we see the value of all that practising with horse and lance which took place in the wood near Willoughby. This success gave great encouragement to the whole army and Captain Smith was conducted to the general's presence by a guard of 6000, the three Turks' heads being carried on lances before three riderless horses. The general received him with much kindness and gave him a richly saddled horse and a very costly sword and belt; and his commander, Earl Meldritch, made him Major of his regiment.

By now the ramparts were finished and all was ready for the attack on Regall. The Turks were gallant defenders, but their walls were broken down by the cannon which from the new fortifications now commanded the town, and the breaches thus made were stormed by the Christians and the besieged people driven back into the

castle. There they asked for a truce, but Earl Meldritch too well remembered their cruelty when they first took the place from the inhabitants of the country. So, storming the castle, he put all able to bear arms to death and took the women and children prisoners. The loss to the Christian army had also been very severe and in revenge the general sacked other towns, so taking to Prince Sigismund at last about 3000 prisoners and 36 ensigns. The Prince was also told the services which Captain Smith had rendered through his devices with torches and fire-works, and finally about his contests single-handed with three Turks. Thereupon the Prince gave him a coat of arms, the proof of nobility, with three Turks' heads upon it and also 300 ducats, a goodly sum of money, yearly as a pension. This last, I am sorry to say, so far as we know, Smith never received.

The Emperor by now had become impatient to possess this country he had so set his heart on but which from being one

of the most fruitful in Europe, had become the "very spectacle of desolation—their fruits and fields overgrown with weeds, their churches and battered palaces and best buildings as for fear hid with moss and ivy." Indeed it is hard to see why he was so eager to own it; but he was, and sent a large army under General Busca to take possession. Prince Sigismund, seeing he was not nearly strong enough to stand against this force, surrendered and gave up his country to the Emperor of Germany, he himself being settled under very honorable conditions at Prague.



EARL MELDRITCH BRINGS 3000 PRISONERS AND 136 ENSIGNS TO PRINCE SIGISMUND.

IV.

TAKEN PRISONER, HE ESCAPES AND FINALLY REACHES ENGLAND.

This change of front on the part of Prince Sigismund left the Earl of Mel-dritch and the foreign troops under him with nothing to do. But in the mean time the Emperor had learned that there was trouble in Wallachia, another small country near by; and that the Turks had sent a prince there to rule the country, against whom the inhabitants were rebelling. It seemed to the Emperor then, a good time to annex that country also, so he ordered General Busca to proceed there from Transylvania, and with him went Earl Mel-dritch and his men.

They found the enemy strongly en-

camped and settled down near them, killing what scouts they could and at the same time losing many of their own camp-followers. At last, not knowing how else to induce the Turks to fight, Busca drew off his men slowly, burning and plundering as they went. This enraged the encamped Turks and also encouraged them, for they thought the German force was retreating because of the rumor that a large Turkish army was coming as a reinforcement. They therefore urged their commander to lead them out in pursuit of the retreating army. After two days of this pursuit, which was of course what the German army wanted in order that they might choose their ground, they turned furiously upon their pursuers and a tremendous battle ensued in which the Christians were victorious and 25,000 men were left dead on the field. In this battle as in all the others, Earl Meldritch showed great personal bravery, and we may be sure he was ably seconded by his captain, John Smith.

This won the country for the Emperor; but there was no rest for the soldiers, for news came that bands of Turks were foraging in another part of the country, and Meldritch with 13,000 men was sent in pursuit of these marauders. It was not long before he learned that he was setting out against an army of 30,000 men, and that Jeremie, the former Turkish ruler of Wallachia, was coming with 15,000 more. Meldritch immediately fell back towards the town of Rottenton, but soon found that he was nearly surrounded by these overwhelming forces of the enemy. From scouts and prisoners he learned the position of the Turkish army, and that his only way of retreat lay through a valley in Jeremie's possession. Then Captain Smith again came to the rescue with another stratagem which Meldritch immediately put into execution. He caused the soldiers to attach to the tips of their lances pieces of wood on which something he calls wild fire (perhaps phosphorus) had been

rubbed. Then holding these before them the soldiers rushed in the night through the lines of the enemy. The rapid motion made the pieces of wood blaze forth such flames and sparkles that it frightened both horses and men; and the horses in the front ranks turned tail with such fury that by their violence they overthrew and trampled on their own comrades, without any loss at all to speak of to Meldritch. In this way the Christian army succeeded in getting nearly to Rottenton, but within three leagues of the town the enemy with 40,000 men so beset them that they must either fight or be cut in pieces flying.

We may be sure it did not take the brave Meldritch long to decide, though he knew the fight to be hopeless. He arranged his men in the best manner he could, but after a desperate and brave struggle, almost the entire army was destroyed and the Earl barely escaped with his life. In this dismal battle many brave gentlemen and soldiers were slain, only a few getting

off alive, even as prisoners. Captain Smith was left for dead, and lay groaning among the slaughtered bodies until he was found by the pillagers who saw that he was still living. They felt sure because of the richness of his arms and clothes that his ransom would be of more value to them than his death, and so took him prisoner with several others. He was used well by his captors until his wounds were healed, and then was sold for a slave in the open market, where men were thought of and treated almost as animals. He was bought by a Turkish prince and was sent by him as a gift to his lady love in Constantinople, hoping in this way to gain her favor. By twenty and twenty chained by the necks, the slaves were marched to the great city and there Smith was delivered to his future mistress, the Princess Tragabigzanda, for whose kindness he was grateful to the end of his life.

This Princess did not return the affection of her Turkish admirer and soon be-

came greatly interested in her new slave. She tried to discover his nationality and what had been his life before he was sent to her. When she learned through interpreters that he was an Englishman, and of his many and brave adventures, she determined that he should be taught her language and educated as a Turk. Then lest her mother should sell him to some one else, she sent him to her brother in Cambia with many directions as to kind treatment. The journey was long and interesting, and Smith noticed many curious facts about the countries then in the power of the Turks, and the customs of this brave and warlike but cruel people. He never went to a new place without seeing and remembering its peculiar characteristics, and so he was constantly increasing his knowledge and experience.

In spite of all the kind princess' instructions, when Captain Smith reached the great stone tower where her brother lived he was treated with the greatest cruelty.

Perhaps this man, who was a Turkish official, thought his sister was taking too much interest in a Christian slave and that she, maybe, hoped some day to set him free and marry him. Whatever he thought, he ordered that the new slave should be stripped of his clothes and a rough hair coat put on him. His head and beard were shaved—a mark of shame—and an iron ring was put about his neck. There were many more Christian slaves Smith tells us, and also Turks and Moors, and he was slave of slaves to them all. “Among these slavish fortunes there was no great choice, for the best was so bad a dog could hardly have lived to endure, and yet for all their pains and labors they were no more regarded than a beast.” In fact they were used for work as we use beasts.

The only hope Smith had of escaping from this terrible imprisonment was the affection he was sure the Princess Tragabigzanda had for him; yet he knew she was ignorant of the way he was now being

treated. Although he and some other Christian prisoners had often talked over ways of escape, there seemed to be none, "but God beyond man's imagination helpeth his servants when they least think of help," and at last a chance came. They made Smith a thresher on one of the cruel ruler's farms which the Turk often visited, using the slaves at work there with great cruelty if anything annoyed him. On this particular occasion the Turk became angry at Smith and so beat and reviled him that the slave, forgetting all reason, beat out his wicked master's brains with his rough threshing bat, for they had no flails. Then he put on the Turk's clothes as a disguise, hid the body under the straw, filled his knapsack with corn, shut the doors, mounted the Turk's horse, and so fled into the desert.

Two or three days he wandered, not knowing whither. At last he came to a high road on which at intervals there were sign-posts painted in curious devices, repre-



*Capt SMITH Killeth the BASHAW.
of Nalbrits and on his hoise
escapeth. Chap 17*

*London Printed
by James Reeve*

SMITH KILLS THE TURK.
From a print in Smith's "True Travels."

senting the countries to which the cross-roads led. He chose the sign of the cross which marked the road leading to Russia, and travelled for sixteen days, fearful of meeting anyone lest he should be captured and returned to his terrible slavery. On the last of these days which seemed to him endless, he came to Ecopolis, a town of the Russians, where he at once found friends. For the governor of the place, hearing his story, took off his iron collar and so kindly used him he thought himself new risen from death, and the governor's lady largely supplied all his wants. Then giving him friendly letters to other governors, they sent him on from province to province, and he everywhere received the kindest treatment, till at last he came to Transylvania again. "In all his life," he tells us, "he seldom met with more respect, mirth, content, and entertainment" than during this long journey, and "not any governor to whom he came but gave him

some present, besides treating him as an honored guest.”

All this kindness, Smith was sure, was because the same evil chance might very likely befall any one of them. For these little countries through which he had come were constantly being warred against by one great power or another, and this in spite of the fact that, as Smith says, “they are countries rather to be pitied than envied and it is a wonder any should make wars for them.” It was impossible to travel through them except in the company of caravans because of marauders and bandits. The villages were scattered and consisted of only a few houses made of fir trees laid one above the other, and made fast by notches and by wooden pins. “In ten villages you would scarce find ten iron nails unless it be in some extraordinary man’s house.” All the towns were fortified by having deep ditches dug around them and by palisades of fir trees, and some had small cannon; but the weapons of the

soldiers mostly consisted of bows and arrows.

In Transylvania Smith found so many good friends, that if he had not longed to see England again, he could not have made up his mind to leave them. However he soon started on his journey towards home, first coming to where his Colonel was with Prince Sigismund. They gave him his papers of discharge and passports, together with 1500 ducats (about \$2500) to repair his losses.

In spite of his hurry to see England, Captain Smith was too enthusiastic a traveler to leave any countries unvisited on his way, and as he now had plenty of money he stopped in many towns and cities, and finally went down into Spain. There he heard of the wars in Barbary, a country in Africa, and he seems to have had a desire to fight the Turk once more. So born soldier and adventurer that he was, he took ship at Gibraltar for Morocco and Tangiers. Here he had many curious adven-

tures and heard many strange stories which he tells as they were told to him. One man, Henry Archer, whom he met there, told him that he had once made a pet of a lion cub which slept on his bed and was as tame as a puppydog. As he had to return to England, he gave the lion, now grown as large as a mastiff, away. The animal was finally taken to England, and presented to King James, and lived in the Tower seven years. One day a servant of this same Master Archer went to the tower to see the lions, not knowing his master's former pet was there. "Yet this rare beast smelled him before he saw him," and showed by so many signs that he knew him that the keepers opened the door and let the man into the cage. There the lion fawned on him as would any dog, licking his hands and face and tumbling to and fro to the wonder of all the beholders. And finally when the man went, the lion expressed his sorrow by bellowing and roaring, and for four days refused to eat.

This and other lion stories made a great impression on our traveler, as also did his first sight of elephants. He says of these: "Though some report they cannot kneel nor lie down, they can do both and have their joints, as other creatures, for use; with their four feet they will leap upon (push against) trees to pull down the boughs, and are of that strength they will shake a great cocar tree for the nuts, and pull down a good tree with their tusks to get the leaves to eat, as well as sedge and long grass, cocar nuts and berries, etc., which with their trunk they put in their mouth and chew it with their smaller teeth."

When Smith had visited all this coast of Africa and found that the wars in Barbary consisted rather of perfidious, treacherous, and bloody murders, than the fighting he cared to take part in, he began again to plan for home. At the port of Safi, he made the acquaintance of a Captain Merham, commander of a man-of-war lying

in the harbor, and accepted his invitation to go aboard with his companions and inspect the ship. Talking and entertainment kept them there until it was too late to go on shore that evening. At midnight such a storm arose they were obliged to put to sea to escape being dashed on shore, and were driven before the wind as far as the Canary Islands. Here they lay trying to make the best of the trip they had not planned for, and looking for what fortune they could find. We should say they turned pirates for they captured a small bark laden with wine and stopped two other boats. These however, returned evil with good, for they warned Captain Merham that there were two men-of-war near by. He attempted to get away without being discovered by these larger craft, but was hailed, chased, and finally fired upon by two Spanish ships which came down upon him from some unseen harbor. Thereupon a terrific sea-fight took place. The French ship was boarded and both French and Spanish suf-

ferred severe loss. It is hard to see from Captain Smith's description how the smaller boat possibly escaped, attacked as it was by two fierce sea-fighters, one on one side and one on the other, until because of the cannon shots there was little light but only fire and smoke. The fight lasted two afternoons and half the night, the time between being spent by the French boat in trying to get away. Twice was she boarded and once she was badly on fire, but in all that time she was brave and defiant and refused to surrender or to promise tribute to Spain.

At last, with twenty-seven men killed and sixteen wounded, and with 140 great shot imbedded or leaving marks in her keel, she managed to steal away from her assailants and came again to the port her captain had so unexpectedly left. This fully satisfied all our hero's desire for adventure for the present anyway, and he made all speed to England.

V.

THE JOURNEY TO AMERICA.

Captain Smith returned to England in the year 1604, when he was 25 years old. He found all the country interested in schemes for colonies, as England has been ever since. But at that time the wonderland of America lay before them, a field for all sorts of adventure. Ever since the amazing voyage of Columbus, Spain had been sending expedition after expedition to the new world. Cortez had conquered Mexico and sent back untold wealth to his king, besides all the plunder he and his soldiers enjoyed. Various explorations had been made by brave men farther north—in Florida and along the Gulf—with varying success, and England was begin-

ning to realize that her rival was outstripping her in the search for land and gold. All the English adventurers who had come home from foreign wars were impatient to see this western land where precious metals could be picked up in lumps and fountains of youth gushed from the ground. Marvellous accounts were given of treasures beyond human imagination to be had almost for the asking, and men grew more and more credulous of stories which sound to us now no better than fairy tales. Only leaders were needed, and more money to fit out expeditions; and these were soon supplied.

Sir Walter Raleigh, whose imagination had been fired by some of these wonderful tales, and who loved adventure for its own sake, had sent out several ships whose captains were more or less successful. In 1584, before Smith was born, two of these vessels sailed along the coast of the Carolinas, and landing in a small bay took possession of all the country around in the

name of the Queen, and called it Virginia. They did not attempt to settle, it was easier to give a country a name than to prove its right to it by establishing a colony; they were waiting for Captain Smith to do that. The next year, and many times in the years immediately following unsuccessful efforts were made to colonize Virginia until even brave Sir Walter was discouraged, his money gone, and he himself sent to prison by jealous King James who had succeeded Elizabeth.

Finally in 1602, just two years before Smith came home, a Captain Gosnold sailed across the Atlantic and brought back a load of sassafras and more descriptions of Virginia. This roused fresh interest and ships were again sent, and though no permanent settlements were made there were no shipwrecks, and men slowly became familiar with the long dangerous trip and recovered from the discouragement they had been feeling.

Then came this brave adventurous youth

of 25, fresh from his wonderful escape from the Turks and full of horror for the sort of war he had found in Africa. The idea of building up a town instead of tearing and burning one down, of helping people to live instead of killing them, appealed to him strongly; and he joined Gosnold and some others in an attempt to fit up a colonizing expedition. At first they succeeded in obtaining only a patent or permission from the king. This granted to the petitioners the territory from what is now the border of Maryland to the boundary line between Vermont and Canada, to be settled by two colonies. The southern part of this grant belonged to the first colony of which Smith was a part.

By the end of two years the petitioners had secured from noblemen and merchants interested in the possible wealth to be gained from the scheme, money enough to equip three vessels. These were the *Susan Constant*, under Captain Christopher Newport who was in command of the expedition,

the *Godspeed*, under Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, and the *Discovery* under John Ratcliffe. All these men we shall hear of later.

The company which was to sail in these ships was too mixed to be harmonious and had no appointed head. The king wished to settle all important questions for them, and very stupidly had given them their instructions for the government of the colony and the names of the future officers in a sealed box to be opened when they should reach Virginia. Smith gives us a list of the men with whom he sailed: "48 gentlemen, 12 laborers, 4 carpenters, 1 bricklayer, 1 tailor, 1 mason, 1 barber, 1 drummer, 1 sailor, 2 surgeons, and 4 boys." The "gentlemen" were most of them adventurers, unwilling to work, very ready to quarrel, and only eager for wealth for themselves, not for the good of the colony. There was one clergyman among them, the Rev. Mr. Hunt, who in spite of great feebleness on the voyage did

his best to keep the peace, and things really were better because he was with them. Another important man was Edward Maria Wingfield who was associated with Smith and Gosnold in getting up the expedition.

The three little ships, one of only 20 tons' burden, set sail on the 19th of December, 1606, but were detained by bad weather until it was fully six weeks before they were fairly out of sight of England. On the way there were many alarms for the superstitious. The 12th of February they saw a blazing star; and then came a storm, caused they thought by the star; and partly to break the perilous journey, partly to take on fresh water and provisions, they steered their course for the Canaries.

But this unfriendly company had been quarreling all the way, and when the Islands were sighted, bad feeling had reached such a height that some one had to suffer. Why this should have been John Smith we do not know; but to judge from some accounts of the trip there was much

angry feeling against him. He had had more experience than any other member of the company, and perhaps in the lack of a president tried to take command. He had always wanted his own way and had not lost his old wilfulness. Then he was certainly the one best fitted to be leader and that only made the others jealous. There was much trouble, a mutiny was threatened—evidently some of the party took Captain Smith's side—and if it had not been for the peace-maker, Mr. Hunt, the ships might all have turned back. They contented themselves, however, with putting Smith in chains, and he remained a prisoner till long after they reached Virginia.

After the party left the Canaries they stopped at the little Island of Nevis in the West Indies, and finding it a fertile and beautiful spot stayed there about a week to rest and refresh the men. There they threatened to hang their prisoner, but, as he says, he could not be persuaded to use

the gallows which they had put up for the purpose, and perhaps the beauty of the place and the good hunting they found quieted their feeling a little. At any rate they gave up their dreadful plan and continued exploring this and the neighboring islands. They found many things that surprised them. On Nevis was a warm pool—what we should call a hot spring—the like of which the English had never seen. In this the men much enjoyed bathing, and in another, very much hotter, they succeeded in boiling a piece of pork. In one place they took from the bushes with their hands about two hogsheads full of birds in two or three hours; the wild things had not yet learned to be afraid of hunters. In another place they came upon a horrid beast like a crocodile; and tortoises, pelicans, parrots and strange fishes abounded. All through the West Indies canoes full of Indians—*salvages* the English called them—came out to greet them, and the company was greatly amazed at their strange customs. They

brought out to the ships all sorts of fruit, such as pineapples and bananas, with sweet potatoes and tobacco. They also had a sort of cloth which they exchanged for beads, knives, and hatchets. "They paint their bodies red," says one of the company, "to keep off the mosquitoes; their hair is a yard long and braided in three plaits; they also tattoo their skin. They are always at war and will eat their enemies when they take them, and they poison their arrow-heads which are made of fish-bone." Surely a strange people and different in some ways from the Indians the travelers are to meet farther north. And although whenever the English landed they kept a very strict watch, they never saw the slightest attempt at hostility on the part of these *salvages*, only a great curiosity, and a willingness to trade.

After leaving the islands, the ships lost their way; land did not appear where they expected to find it, and poor frightened Captain Ratcliffe was so discouraged

that he wanted to turn back. But in the nick of time a storm from the south seized them and proving to be their best friend, drove them northward during two days of terror and despair toward exactly the harbor they needed. The first point of land they saw, they hailed with joy and named Cape Henry in honor of the Prince of Wales. Then another appeared beyond this, and there between lay Chesapeake Bay, the beauty of which surprised and delighted the despondent and tired out travellers.

On the morning of April 26, 1607, Captain Newport, Captain Gosnold, and twenty or thirty others landed and began to explore the shores of Cape Henry. They found there "faire meadows and goodly tall trees, with fresh waters running through the woods." They also found in a later search large and delicate oysters in which occasional pearls were seen, also strawberries, fully four times bigger and finer than those in England. Altogether it seemed a goodly

land with but one drawback. Around a slope of a nearby hill came four or five savages creeping on all fours like bears and carrying their bows in their mouths. "These charged the English very desperately in the faces," wounded one of the adventurers in both his hands and a sailor in two places in his body very dangerously. The English returned fire but the savages escaped unhurt—truly not a cordial welcome to the new world.

But they could not be discouraged now, and before going back to the boats, the little company opened the sealed box in which were their instructions. Here they found the names for a council of seven: Captain Gosnold, Edward Wingfield, Captain Newport, John Smith, John Ratcliffe, John Martin, and George Kendall. The instructions read that a president was to be elected from this council and all matters of importance were to be determined by it, after being examined into by a jury.

From this time until the 13th of May,

the men made trips of discovery to all parts of the bay, looking for the best location for the city they were going to build and the best land for farming. They built a small boat for cruising in these quiet waters and began to search out the rivers. Europeans still had hopes of discovering a channel through to the Pacific and in that way a shorter route to China and the East; and all colonists were instructed, as these had been, to seek for navigable rivers and then to explore them "especially that which bendeth most toward the North West, for that way you shall soonest find the other sea." It was to take many men many terrible journeys before Europe should find out the great size of the land they were attempting to colonize.

After sounding several channels and finding to their disappointment only shallow waters, streams whose banks were covered with flowers of many kinds and colors, and with cedar, cypress, and different kinds of trees, the explorers rowed to

a point of land where at last they found a deep channel which promised much. "This put us in good comfort," writes one of the number, "Therefore we named the point of land Cape Comfort." It keeps the name to this day and we know the very spot as Old Point Comfort.

A few days later the ships were brought to this cape and then all on board saw savages running about on the shore who at first seemed very timid but later responded to friendly gestures and invited the strange white men to come on shore and visit their towns. This was done, and during the next several days Captain Newport and some of the adventurers visited three or four Indian villages, received by the different chiefs with much kindness and ceremony. The English were impressed by the great gravity and dignity of these rulers and by the many entertainments given for the amusement of the travellers. Mats were brought out for them to sit on, they were served with all the best food the

savages could provide, and in one place there was a strange dance performed in this manner: "One of the savages standing in the midst singing, beating one hand against the other; all the rest dancing about him, shouting, howling, and stamping against the ground, with many antic tricks and faces, making noises like so many wolves or devils."

At last, after these various wanderings and explorations, the place for a settlement was chosen and named Jamestown in honor of the King of England. We can picture the discovery of this spot by the eager colonists. Sailing from Cape Comfort up the broad and beautiful river they had found, scanning the shore first on one side then on the other to find the best point at which to land, they went about thirty miles before they saw what they were looking for. Jutting out into the river was a sort of peninsula connected with the shore by a narrow strip of land, and very easy for this reason to defend. At the water's edge

grew tall reeds and the whole point was thickly wooded. The English had had just enough experience with the strange people they had come among to know that defense was a most important consideration, and though the spot was not ideal in other ways—for one thing, it was too low—its natural advantages as a fort made them choose it immediately. Then the water was very deep all around it so that the ships could sail close to the banks and be moored by fastening them to some tall trees growing there. It was, according to Captain Smith, “a very fair place for the erecting of a great city.” As soon as they could make a landing, all the provisions were taken ashore, and with as much speed as might be, they went about the fortification. At the same time the council met and Master Wingfield was elected president. Captain Smith was not allowed to serve on the council for the present, being still a prisoner and held for trial. Wingfield seems not to have been a wise choice as he was

hot-tempered and jealous, and instead of uniting the colonists was likely to get into trouble himself.

“Now falleth every man to work,” writes one of the gentlemen adventurers, “the council contrive (plan) the fort, the rest cut down trees to make a place to pitch their tents, some provide clapboards to reload the ships (they must send something back to England as a proof that the scheme was worth while) some make gardens, some nets, etc.” It must have been a busy place and we may be sure even the “gentlemen” worked—perhaps for the only time in their lives. At the very beginning of the settlement a dispute arose; Mr. Wingfield did not think it was necessary to spend much time in barricading the fort, except for boughs of trees laid one on top of the other; and because of his great jealousy would allow of no exercise of arms, thus showing his shortsightedness. For they must expect other than friendly visits from the natives. Indeed about midnight of this

first night several Indians came prowling around the tents. An alarm was soon given and they all ran away. Next time they would not be so easily frightened off.

Then a few days later came two savages looking like chiefs, so gayly were they dressed; but they said they were messengers from the great chief whose village the white men had visited and who wished to return the visit. Before very long, to be sure, came the chief himself, guarded by one hundred Indians who were armed with bows and arrows. The chief begged the strangers to lay aside their arms, which had been quickly seized on the approach of the Indians, but these hardy sailors were too wise and refused to trust the savages to that extent. A friendly talk began in which the great chief made signs that he would give the white men as much land as they wished for their buildings. Probably he was eager to get in exchange some of the curious things which he saw scattered about in the tents of the strangers. But while

the heads of the two parties conferred in this seemingly peaceable manner, one of the crowd of Indians who were examining the inside of the fort, stole a hatchet. Its owner saw the theft and forcibly took back his property, at the same time striking the savage on the arm. Another savage, seeing this, came fiercely at the Englishman with a wooden sword to beat out his brains and there would have been an immediate battle, had not the chief realized that now while the white men were fully armed was no time for a conflict. The Indian has always preferred to surprise his foe when unarmed and to shoot at him from behind a tree, and not in the open as they were then. So the visitors departed suddenly and in great anger. This occurrence and several others like it soon showed the English they must be constantly on guard against these treacherous forest foes.

The Virginia colonists were the employees of a company in England, and were ordered to explore and make maps

of the country and to find out all the resources of the new possessions. So a few days later Captain Newport and Captain Smith with about twenty others, were appointed to explore the James River on the banks of which their settlement was located,—one of them calls it “the famous-est river ever found by any Christian.” Captain Newport was in command and determined not to return without finding the head of the river, the other sea, or the mountains where, it was rumored, the Indians procured their great stores of copper—you see they had about given up the gold. We shall see how successful he was in this endeavor.

VI.

THE TRIP UP THE JAMES.

Captain Smith's appointment for this journey must have been a great surprise to him as he had been a prisoner since the landing and not allowed to take part in the councils and the visits to the Indians. Some people think that President Wingfield in his jealousy was glad to get him out of the colony, and even hoped that in possible troubles with the Indians he might be injured. But we may just as easily believe that they all saw how specially fitted this brave, resourceful, energetic man was by character and experience for such a journey. At any rate he and Captain Newport and their men started out on the 22nd of May, taking with them provisions and

all necessaries belonging to a discovery; also many trinkets to give the Indians. Before they started there had been some trouble with the natives, such as skulking visits paid to the fort and some petty thefts, and the two leaders of the exploring trip knew that their first care must be to keep on good terms with these uncertain savages.

George Percy, one of the colonists, gives us an interesting description of the great river showing how its beauties impressed the travellers.

“The river ebbs and flows a hundred and four score miles where ships of great burden may harbor in safety” (but we must remember that a ship of great burden to them was of a hundred tons or so). “Wheresoever we landed upon this river, we saw the goodliest woods as beech, oke, cedar, cypresse, walnuts, sassafras, and vines in great abundance which hang in great clusters on many trees, and other trees unknown; and all the grounds be-

spread with many sweet and delicate flowers of divers colors and kinds. There are also many fruits as strawberries, mulberries, raspberries and fruits unknown. There are many branches of this river which run flowing through the woods with great plenty of fish of all kinds; as for sturgeon, all the world cannot be compared to it. In this country I have seen many great and large meadows having excellent good pasture for many cattle. There is also great store of deer, both red and fallow. There are bears, foxes, otters, beavers, muskrats, and wild beasts unknown." England had been so long a civilized land that the wild beauty of the primeval forest was a source of wonder and delight to the colonists. Captain Smith speaks of the great breadth of the river and its high banks and the many fresh springs of clear water.

To these banks all through their journey, came the Indians offering them, as they sailed by, the large fine strawberries they had already noticed, little sweet nuts like

acorns, and many other fruits, with bread, fish and other provisions. Indeed there was much kindness and friendly feeling shown by the natives and Captain Newport and Captain Smith met it with kindness and fair dealing. For whatever the Indians gave them, they gave in exchange, "Bels, pinnes, needles beades or Glasses, which so contented them (the Indians) that his liberality made them follow us from place to place and ever kindly to respect us."

On the second morning the shallop, as the little sail-boat was called, stopped at a small island to get water and rest the crew, and there they saw a canoe with eight Indians going by. Hailing them kindly, the English persuaded them to come ashore, hoping to find out something from them about the journey. It was hard at first of course to get into communication with the natives, but by means of signs and with much patience the English managed to make them understand what was wanted.

Then one Indian made signs that he would describe the country to them, and taking the pen and paper handed to him, drew a rough map of the whole river from the bay to the farthest navigable point, locating all islands and shoals. And in every test the English made of this map it was found to be correct. All along the journey, the same Indians met them with food and provisions which they eagerly traded for trinkets. All the way were the strange and beautiful sights Mr. Percy so well described,—turkeys and wild-fowl quite new to the white strangers, bright flowers and fine trees. The curious customs of the savages amused them and everything seemed propitious.

Soon the little body of explorers came to an Indian village called *Arsatecke*, where the king, whom they supposed to be the chief ruler in his tribe, received them with much kindness. He gave them as a guide the same Indian who some miles back had drawn the map for them, and who was now

to take them up as far as Powhatan, their principal town, from which place the famous king Powhatan, ruler of the tribe, took his name. Before they went they were feasted and entertained with dances, and the king even took off his crown of deer's hair, dyed red, and placed it on Captain Newport's head. Leaving there they rowed ten miles further, passing little groups of Indians gathered on the banks to greet them as they went by, and finally came to Powhatan's Tower, as they named the place. Here they were conducted up the hill to the great king, and found with him the king of *Arsatecke* whom they had just left. They were received by the two chiefs with much ceremony, and after many signs of goodwill, a league of friendship was entered into between the English and King Powhatan. We shall see how loyally this was kept.

Leaving the camp and accompanied by several of the Indians the little band of explorers rowed on up the stream, but were

soon stopped by impassable falls and rapids. There were many shallows and the water fell with great violence over huge craggy rocks. This was a disappointment indeed, and after "having viewed this place between content and grief," as one of them says, "we left it for the night, determining the next day to fit ourselves for a march by land." Smith says the reason they did not go straight on that same day was because the guides whom Powhatan sent with them refused to go beyond the falls, and that they trifled about there all the afternoon admiring the wild beauty of the place. I suppose one reason why the hills impressed Captain Smith as much as they did was because Willoughby where he was born was in such a flat and marshy region.

Spending the night on board their little boat, they went back to the town next day to get provisions for their trip to the country above the falls where, they had been led to believe by the guide who drew the

map for them, they should find gold-bearing mountains and the salt sea. Reaching the town they found that two of their bags containing bullets and various toys for trading purposes had been stolen. Captain Newport immediately informed the king, who caused everything instantly to be restored, showing that he knew well who the thieves were and had let them go unpunished,—a curious kind of friendship! Nevertheless, the Captain thanked the king and rewarded the thieves with the same toys they had stolen, carefully keeping the ammunition; but at the same time he told them that such offenses were punishable by death in England. At dinner, to which the English invited King Powhatan and his chiefs, Captain Newport tried to induce the king to tell him how far it was to where the copper was procured and where the country of the high mountains lay, and asked that they might have guides for the intended march. The king showed great unwillingness to do all this and finally told the would-be ex-

plorers he could meet them at the falls and explain his hesitation. There at a final conference he told them of the hardships in their way, the difficulty they would find in getting provisions, and the hostility of the Indians in those parts: that their chiefs came down at the fall of the leaf and invaded the country of Powhatan.

With great reluctance but with much wisdom the longer trip was given up and the journey back begun, the leaders thinking it more valuable to keep their treaty with Powhatan than to make the discoveries they had hoped for. The faithful guide was rewarded with a gown and a hatchet, and many pledges of friendship were exchanged. Then upon one of the little islands at the foot of the falls they set up a cross with the inscription upon it, *Jacobus Rex, 1607*, and the name of Christopher Newport below. And praying for the king and the success of the colony, they proclaimed the English king with a great shout. The few Indians who

were present wondered greatly at this, but the captain told them that the cross with its two arms signified the league between himself and Powhatan and the shout was the reverence he paid to Powhatan. This deception cheered the Indians not a little, especially as the English had promised to help the king against his enemies. But such deceptions are never of any lasting good and already the Indians began to foresee the future greed of the English and to murmur at their planting or settling there; though their great chief had said to them: "Why should you be offended with them as long as they hurt you not, nor take anything away by force. They take but a little waste ground, which doth you nor any of us any good."

Going on down the river to Arsatecke, the English stayed there all the next day, feasting with the king and examining the Indian houses and the gardens planted with corn and tobacco. The king and his chiefs were eager to see on their part all

the wonders the white strangers brought to them, and Captain Newport caused one of his men to fire off a musket for the amusement of the Indians. At the strange noise the king started, stopped his ears, and expressed much fear, as did all the other savages. Some of them who were on board the shallop looking at this new kind of boat even jumped overboard at the explosion. They were all reassured when Captain Newport told them this thunder was used only against the enemies of the English and to help their friends. So with many signs of love, including the gift of a red waistcoat to the delighted king, the explorers departed.

The next day they stopped at the village of the queen Agamatack, who received them with even more majesty than king Powhatan showed. She is described as a fat manly woman with much copper about her neck and a crown of copper on her head, and with long black hair which hung loose down her back. Her people seemed pleased with the visitors and treated them

liberally. From thence they sailed to another place whose name Captain Smith does not remember but where he says the people showed the English their manner of diving for mussels in which they often found pearls. Near here they also met for the first time the king Opechancanough, who made great professions of friendship but whose hostility and treachery they were to suffer from later on.

Passing the village of Weanocke where the voyagers had been well used on the way up the river, they noticed more signs of suspicion on the part of the natives, and their kind guide who had served them so faithfully all this time refused to go with them the rest of the way. This made the little company fear that some danger might threaten those at the fort, so they gave up revisiting the villages nearer the river's mouth and resolved to return to the settlement with all speed. Reaching there they found their fears to be realized. In their absence the fort had been attacked by



CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.
From the picture in his "History of Virginia."

about four hundred Indians, and had it not been for the ships anchored near by which fired on the savages with their cannon and scattered them, the whole settlement might have been wiped out of existence as others had been before them. For all the men in the fort were taken quite unaware as they were busy in planting; their arms, many of them, being laid aside or in process of repair. As it was most of the council were hurt, one boy was killed outright, and the president, Master Wingfield (who showed himself a valiant gentleman), had one shot clean through his beard and yet escaped unhurt.

The colonists immediately set about making the fort more of a real protection, Wingfield by this time seeing his error. As one of the colonists puts it: "Hereupon the President was contented the Fort should be pallisadoed, the ordnance mounted, his men armed and exercised: for many were the assaults and ambuscadoes of the salvages; and our men by

their disorderly stragling were often hurt when the salvages by the nimbleness of their heels well escaped." For six or seven days as the chronicler says, there were alarms and skirmishes, more or less severe, with the treacherous enemy, and four or five English were caught outside the fort and badly wounded; the Indians' loss could not be learned, but the report was three slain and several hurt. They seemed to be tremendously afraid of the firing from the ships and looked on all guns with great awe.

On June 16th the fort was finished. It was shaped like a triangle with bulwarks at the three corners and four or five pieces of artillery mounted in them. It was surrounded by a strong palisade and within this was room for houses and tents. Thus the colonists thought themselves sufficiently strong for the savages, and so they were if they stayed within the fort. But the Indians were not the only foes they were to contend against.

VII.

CAPTAIN NEWPORT'S DEPARTURE AND DISTRESS IN THE COLONY.

Captain Christopher Newport, whose wisdom and foresight were shown all through those first trying weeks, was now ready to sail back to England, taking his ships with him. He was not a member of the original colonizing expedition but had been engaged to conduct the little band of explorers across the western ocean. Before he went much dissatisfaction was expressed with Wingfield's administration of affairs and it was felt by some that the imprisonment of Captain Smith was a mistake and a misfortune. All the accused man says in his first account about the trial, which now took place, is very brief: "Captain New-

port having set things in order, set sail for England." But in his later account and in that of another of the colonists we learn the facts. That ever since the departure from the Canaries Captain Smith was held prisoner because of the lying reports about him circulated by some of the leaders of the expedition. That they said he intended to make himself king and to murder the council, and that there were accomplices of his in all three ships. That some of these men would be witnesses against him.

These were very severe accusations, and no wonder that a man suspected of such treachery should be left out of the council. But on their trip up the James River Captain Newport had seen his real devotion to the affairs of the colonists, his wisdom in dealing with the Indians and in making and carrying out energetic plans for discovery and settlement. So he decided to bring the whole thing up before a jury and put an end to such unfortunate suspicions. Mr. Wingfield and others of the

council had determined to tell these stories about Smith to the company in England and ask that they censure him publicly, so giving him no chance to defend himself; but Captain Newport insisted on giving Smith a fair chance and was helped in his plan of justice and reconciliation by the good minister, Mr. Hunt.

When the trial came off those who, it was expected, would testify against Smith, spoke for him; and his honesty was so completely proved that he was immediately admitted to the council and later in the year President Wingfield was ordered to pay him about \$1,000 because of the slanders he had spoken. This took about all the property Wingfield had in Virginia, but Captain Smith turned it all into the common store, so increasing the company's faith in him. Captain Newport in this way showed his true interest in the colonists by trying to stop all quarrels. He was wise enough to know they could not succeed unless they stood by each other. "The next

day," one of them says, "we confirmed a faithful love to each other and in our hearts subscribed an obedience to our superiors this day." Mr. Hunt preached to them about peace and friendship, and all together they received the communion. On the day following the Indians voluntarily asked for a treaty of peace; and Captain Newport left Virginia for England on the 2nd of June, 1607, leaving the colonists at peace with the Indians and what was even more important, in harmony with one another. This request for peace however came from King Opechancanough who lived very near the settlement, and sent his messengers with expressions of goodwill. He was a crafty chief and watched the strangers keenly, ready to pounce upon them in any time of weakness.

And now comes the most trying time of all to the colonists, and the saddest part of my story. The peace so wisely established by Captain Newport and Mr. Hunt did not last very long and the English became discontented with Wingfield's management

and with the bad food given them. Before the ships left they had to some extent been able to use the sailors' provisions, exchanging minerals found on explorations for ship's biscuits. Now there was nothing left to eat but some mouldy meal with which to vary a diet of fish. Many soon fell sick, famine and plague set in, and Captain Smith says that the living were scarcely able to bury the dead, so weak and starving they were. Each man had half a pint of wheat and barley boiled in water a day, and they lived from May to September on sturgeon and sea-crabs. During that time about fifty died, among them Captain Gosnold. He died on the 22nd of August and was a great loss to the colony. As you remember, he was one of the original members of the company, really the one who suggested the plan to Smith and to one or two others, and had been an important member of the council. "He was honorably buried, having all the ordnance in the fort shot off with many volleys of small shot." The

Indians probably thought all this firing was some military practice, for if they had known how weak and helpless most of the English were they surely would have attacked them. Then, too, the colonists began quarreling again, and a few days after the death of Gosnold Captain Kendall was deposed from the council, accused of starting a rebellion against the president, and was imprisoned on board the pin-nace.

When things seemed most hopeless, some friendly Indians appeared at the fort with corn which though half ripe the starving colonists accepted gladly. Mr. Percy describes this sad time in a despairing way: "There were never Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as we were in this newly discovered Virginia. We watched every three nights lying on the bare cold ground, what weather soever came; . . . which brought our men to be most feeble wretches. Our food was but a small can of barley sod (cooked) in water,

to five men a day. Our drink, cold water taken out of the river; which was at a flood, very salt, at a low tide, full of slime and filth: which was the destruction of many of our men. . . . Thus we lived for the space of five months in this miserable distress not having five able men to man our bulwarks upon any occasion.”

The lack of proper leadership was shown by these facts. They had been living in rotten tents and even in trees when there should have been houses from the first. They had been starving for the right kind of food in the midst of a fertile country, full of game of all sorts. Then too, another reason for the hard times was that they had stayed at sea five months instead of two, as they expected to do, so using up most of their provisions and landing too late in the spring to take advantage of the best planting time. One of them says very wisely, “Nothing is so difficult as to establish a commonwealth so far removed from men and means and where men’s minds are so

untoward as neither to do well themselves or suffer others.’’

At last so many of the company insisted on the unfitness of Mr. Wingfield to be president that he was deposed and Captain Ratcliffe elected in his place. Many reasons were given for this action against Wingfield. Captain Smith says he had so ordered things as to be generally hated in the colony. He and Gosnold, before the latter's death, had grown to dislike each other cordially. One man says Wingfield had planned to escape in the little boat to England, taking one or two of the abler men with him so deserting the colonists in their need. Several accuse him of keeping the best of the food during the starving time for his own use and refusing to divide with the others. Wingfield defended himself against all these charges in a letter he sent to England, but whether he was guilty or not he had not been able to govern the unruly adventurers as Captain Newport had been, or to make plans for comfort and

health and permanence of the settlement as Captain Smith did later. He saw this himself and willingly gave up his office and became a sort of prisoner on the boat where Kendall had been sent. Kendall was set at liberty but recognized as a dangerous person and forbidden to carry arms.

The Council did not choose wisely the second time. Captain Ratcliffe had shown himself to be faint-hearted on the voyage, and now proved that he could plan for the future no better than Wingfield. The supplies the Indians brought were soon exhausted and another time of famine would have set in had not the Indians again come to their rescue bringing great store of corn and bread. At the same time, it being early in September, many wild fowl came to the river and soon most of those weakened by lack of food were made well and strong again. But the leaders had not learned from hard experience and none of this abundant provision was stored away nor

any preparation made for the hard times ahead.

Captain Martin, President Ratcliffe's chief counsellor, being taken sick Smith was appointed a sort of head of outdoor affairs,—cape merchant, he calls himself. He was given power to plan for building and trading, and from that moment both those activities went briskly on. By his own example and cheerful encouragement he started the colonists to work,—to mow, to make thatch, to build and roof houses. Through all the time of trouble and sickness, though at one time very sick himself, he never lost heart and when at last this time came for him to take the lead, he really accomplished something and made the most of the poor material at hand. He says the men were constantly complaining and muttering and could with great difficulty be persuaded to do anything for their own relief.

What Smith was doing now ought to have been done at the very beginning of

the settlement; but the large majority of the expedition were explorers and fortune-hunters, instead of wise, persistent, energetic colonists, determined to make the best home possible there in the forest. They had not even selected a good place for their encampment as far as health went, for it was on the edge of swampy lands and this accounted partly for all the sickness. Then they had been unfortunate in their leaders. Captain Newport had been wonderfully successful with the Indians and in pacifying the quarrelsome adventurers, and in all the records so far we find not one word against him. But he was not one of the company and only with them occasionally. Then Captain Gosnold was much interested in the permanence of the colony and his death came at an unlucky time. He would probably have been a good leader and counselor and is spoken of as a worthy and religious gentleman on whose life depended a good part of the success of the colony. All the others were quarrelsome and more

or less useless in important matters, with the exception of the man who now comes into power and is the real founder of the colony.

After Captain Smith was put in charge of these outside affairs and had started the building and planting, he took the little boat and sailed up and down among the Indian villages near by, trading for corn. Even Wingfield testified that in this way he relieved the company well. Although he did not know the language and lacked the proper number of sailors to manage the boat and also guns and necessary clothing for his men, still he was not discouraged and started cheerfully on his experiments. First he visited the small town of Kecoughtan, now Hampton, "where at first they scorned him as a half-starved man, yet he so dealt with them that the next day they loaded his boat with corn." This dealing consisted in meeting scorn with scorn and refusing to trade for the poor bits of food the savages first offered, asking the

English for their coats and hatchets in exchange! At the same time that he refused to trade Smith gave to the children and to some kindly natives the trifles they so admired—beads, little pocket-knives, &c.

Then next day he came back to the shore and being met in a somewhat unfriendly manner by the Indians, fired a few shot at them and pulling the boat on shore followed the fleeing natives to the town. When they reached the houses the savages had entirely disappeared and Smith's men were eager to seize the heaps of corn they saw on every side. But their leader knew better and ordered them to be ready for the attack which would soon come. Sure enough in a very few moments a crowd of savages appeared from the woods making a hideous noise. There were sixty or seventy of them painted in different colors, black, white and red. They came on in the form of a square, singing and dancing and carrying before them their idol or okee, which was made of skins

stuffed with moss and all painted and hung with chains of shells and copper. They charged the English with clubs, bows, and arrows, but were, as Smith says, so *kindly received* with musket shot that several fell to the ground, the rest fled, and the idol was captured.

This was a terrible blow to the superstitious savages and very soon some of the principal Indians came back to treat for peace and beg that their okee be restored. Smith said that if six of them would come unarmed and load his boat, he would be their friend, give them back the idol and also beads, copper, and hatchets. They immediately agreed to this and brought him venison, wild-fowl, turkeys, and bread. Smith on his part faithfully performed his side of the bargain, and when they left the savages were singing and dancing in sign of friendship.

On the way back they met two canoes full of Indians who came aboard the shallop eager to trade. As they had only their

hunting provisions with them they urged the English to visit their village, Weras-koyack, and there Smith succeeded in obtaining more corn. In this way he returned to Jamestown with thirty bushels "which gave great comfort to our despairing company."

While Smith was away affairs at the settlement had gone from bad to worse. He found when he came back that the beads, knives, and hatchets, the objects he had so carefully kept for trading at the same time trying to impress the Indians with their value, had been carelessly given away. Then too, for the next few weeks, the English went on living from hand to mouth, making no plans and working only when forced to. For these reasons it seemed wise to Smith to plan for a longer trading trip in order to lay in supplies for the winter. So he asked that the pinnace be carefully repaired, and while this was being done he went off again to see if he could find corn in some of the other small

villages, there being provision for only fourteen days left in the storehouse.

Starting out with six or seven men he found the natives either timid or churlish. In one place there were only women to be seen; the braves were probably off on some hunting expedition. These women ran away into the woods, and though there was much corn about, Captain Smith felt that he had no commission to rob them, so came away empty-handed. In the next town the Indians traded very unwillingly and whenever they could would try to steal from the English, even their coats and swords. Then, when they were repulsed, they would threaten an attack with their bows and arrows. So, constantly on the defensive and warding off such attacks, Captain Smith came back to the fort with only about ten bushels of corn.

The English had always to be on guard against the savages' readiness to steal. Smith soon learned that the "people steal anything that comes near them; yea,

are so practiced in this art, that looking in our face, they would with their feet between their toes, convey a chisel, knife, percer, or any indifferent light thing, which having once conveyed, they hold it an injury to take the same from them. They are naturally given to treachery."

The small result of these two trips and the fact that whatever Captain Smith provided the rest carelessly spent, made the longer journey he was planning for, quite necessary. How he succeeded and what he suffered we shall learn in the next chapter.

VIII.

DISCOVERIES ON THE CHICKAHOMINY, AND CAPTURE OF SMITH.

On the 9th of November Captain Smith set out on his voyage of discovery up the Chickahominy River, where it was reported he could find large stores of corn, and near whose banks the real Powhatan lived. For it seemed that the great chief on the James river who had entertained them and with whom they had made a treaty was only a son of the very great Powhatan.

Smith took with him eight men in the barge, leaving the pinnace to follow with five sailors and two men who should help in caring for the great quantity of provisions he hoped to bring back. That same night they came to Paspahegh where they

had traded before and where they were again received with kind greetings. There, Smith says, he showed them what copper and hatchets he would give in exchange for corn and each family sought to satisfy him. As much as he wanted he could buy and at last with his usual sagacity he left them to go further up stream, lest these generous natives should see how much he really needed supplies and so demand more hatchets in exchange.

At the next stopping place the English found a town of about forty houses and further on more towns, in all of which they were kindly used and could have loaded a ship with corn, so great was the abundance and so willing were the natives to trade. Then they returned to Paspahegh and thinking of the great need of corn at the fort, Smith hurried back, reaching there at midnight. Next morning he unloaded seven hogsheads into the storehouse. In the same way he made two more short trips to the little towns near the river's mouth

where he always found the same desire on the part of the Indians to trade. He also found and shot much wildfowl, terrifying the Indians greatly with his gunfire. But each time he went back to the fort, thinking it wiser just then to supply their immediate needs than to undertake a longer journey.

In these different returns to the fort Smith found affairs always in an upset state, and that conspiracies and "disgustful brawls" had constantly occurred in his absence. The pinnacle had not followed him as he ordered, but became the subject of several plots. First, President Ratcliffe and Captain Martin, who had recovered from his long illness, decided to go to England in it for supplies,—a crazy scheme which Smith finally made them give up. For if they were to get stores for the winter and find out much about the surrounding country they needed a sailboat above everything. Besides, they could not afford to lose any men.

Then Wingfield and Kendall, both in dis-

grace, had plotted to steal the boat and escape in her and had even succeeded in winning over some of the sailors—so great was everybody's hatred of Ratcliffe—when Smith again returned in the nick of time. He found that this plot was a far-reaching one. Captain Ratcliffe had had a quarrel with the blacksmith—a most undignified fight—in which he, the president, struck the smith who attempted to strike back with one of his tools. For this rebellious act the man was sentenced to be hanged and on the scaffold confessed to a mutiny of which Captain Kendall was the head. This accusation brought Kendall to trial. He was found guilty and shot. All these things Smith calls *disgustful brawls*, and certainly we must agree with him.

But in spite of all their quarrels, some of the conditions were certainly improving. The men now, thanks to Smith's activity, had houses to live in; there was plenty of corn in store and the river was full of swans, geese, ducks, and cranes; while the

men daily feasted on good bread, Virginia pease, and pumpkins, fish, fowl and different kinds of wild beasts, "fat as we could eat them." This plenty put an end to most of the complaints and also to the plans to go back to England, and the council urged Captain Smith to go further in the voyages he had started, and discover the sources of the Chickahominy and perhaps a passage to the Western ocean.

He started again therefore on the explorations which he says he had neglected because of the immediate need for provisions at the fort, and found the first forty miles up the river easy sailing. The stream he reported to be about a quarter of a mile broad with at first many marshy places, then fertile corn-lands, many people, and great abundance of game. At the end of the forty miles there were numerous islands, then the river grew narrower, and ten miles further up he found a great tree growing amidstreams which he had to cut in two before he could get by. Soon the

stream grew so swift and narrow it became dangerous to take a large boat further, and talking it over with his men, Smith resolved to leave the barge at a town they had just passed and hire a canoe. He wished if possible to discover the source of the river and also to make it impossible for his enemies at the fort to say he did not dare to go on. It was a good deal of an adventure for the whole country from this point on seemed to be a vast wild desert with only this one little town for headquarters.

Next day the canoe was hired, and taking with him two Indians to guide and paddle and two of his own men, Smith left the barge and the other seven men at the town and set forth into the wilderness. It seemed a great risk to take to trust himself entirely to these Indians, especially since the English had come to know so well their treachery. But Captain Smith in his dealings with them had always kept his word and had always succeeded in finally making them do what he wished. The guides he chose

were very friendly, and then he desired above everything else to make some discoveries which should interest people in England and make them think that the colony in Virginia was worth while supporting. He hoped to find a lake, the salt sea, or mountains with copper in them. Instead of these he found our favorite Indian princess, Pocahontas. And this is how he found her.

For the next twenty miles the river kept its breadth and depth but was full of trees, so that a passage through them was made with great difficulty. At the end of this distance, the land still wild and deserted in appearance, they went ashore to rest. While a meal was being prepared, Smith walked away from the river for some distance to examine the nature of the country and to search for food, taking one Indian with him as guide. He ordered the two men he had left with the canoe to fire off a gun if an Indian was anywhere seen.

After they had been walking in the for-

est for some time, Smith suddenly heard behind him a loud cry and Indians shouting. Supposing that his two companions had been betrayed by the other guide and surprised by a band of Indians, he seized the Indian with him and fastened the man's wrist to his own with a garter, meaning to use him as a protection if attacked. But the guide seemed entirely ignorant of any plot and advised Smith to escape. While they talked an arrow struck Smith on the right thigh but did no harm. Then he saw two savages at a little distance drawing their bows, and shot and killed one of them before they could fire. Others soon appeared and many arrows were shot, but so greatly did the savages fear Smith's gun they did not dare come near enough to make their arrows effective and they all fell short. At the same time Smith protected himself with the guide who stood by him manfully and made no effort to get away.

At last our hero found himself sur-

rounded by about two hundred men led by that treacherous and cruel chief, Opechan-canough. They all drew their bows but did not fire, for they seemed eager to take Smith alive and begged him to put down his arms. The guide acted as interpreter in discussing conditions of peace. He said Smith was a great captain and wished to go back to his boat. The Indians on their side demanded his arms and said the other English were killed. Smith was all this time drawing away from the Indians and hoped to be able to escape—for he saw in how great terror they were of his gun, when suddenly he stepped into a bog pulling his guide after him, and there he stuck fast. There seemed nothing to do then but trust to the mercy of the Indians; so he threw down his arms and gave himself up to his captors who led him in triumph to their king. Smith presented this proud monarch with a pocket compass which so amazed and delighted him that he allowed his prisoner to tell him about the round-

ness of the earth and the movements of the heavenly bodies. The Indians believed the earth to be round and flat, with themselves in the middle and were much interested in this queer new idea.

After this oration the savages tied him to a tree and tested his courage by pretending to prepare to kill him; but he stood the test stoically. Then using him kindly, they led him back to his canoe where one of his companions lay dead with about forty arrows in his body. All through the woods there were campfires, which proved to Smith that a party hunting deer had captured him, and not braves on the war-path. That may have been one reason why they treated him with kindness. At the town only six miles distant, the women and children came out to meet them, for they had heard in some way of the capture of a famous chief. It was a great feat among the Indians to take a chief prisoner and they believed Smith to be the great chief of the white men, as indeed he was.

The town they came to seemed a sort of encampment, for the houses were made like arbors hung with mats and could be taken down easily when they wished to go further. The triumphal procession entered the village with great ceremony. First came King Opechancanough well guarded by twenty bowmen, after him two men with swords, then the prisoner between two bowmen, and then all the braves following in good order. When they reached the midst of the village there was a dance,—the Indians had dances to celebrate all occasions,—and then each hunter went to his own house.

In this dance, whether it was a regular hunting ceremony or one of triumph we do not know, the braves formed a circle and danced around shouting and singing, then yelling and screeching. Each man had his quiver of arrows and at his back a club, on his arm a fox or otter skin, and on his head the skin of a bird with wings outspread, and tied to this a piece of

copper, a white shell, a long feather, or a snake's rattle. Their heads and shoulders were painted red, "which scarlet color made an exceeding handsome show." All this while Smith and the king stood in the midst guarded as before; and after three dances they all departed. Smith they "conducted to a long house where thirty or forty tall fellows did guard him; and ere long bread and venison was brought him that would have served twenty men." But he says he did not feel much like eating, everything was too strange and uncertain.

Next morning came three women, bringing again more than he could possibly eat, so that he began to suspect that they were fattening him in order to eat him. But they gave him back his clothing and whatever had been taken from him, and he tells us, did "what they could devise to content me, and still our longer acquaintance increased our better affection."

A day or two later came the first threat.

A savage came to Smith's lodging and

tried to kill him but was prevented by the guards. It was reported to the king who said that this was the father of one of the hunters whom Smith had killed, and he wished to avenge his son's death. At the request of the captive they led him to the wigwam where the young man lay dying, and in answer to their prayers to him to save his victim's life, Smith said it was not possible there, but that he had at Jamestown a medicine which would accomplish the cure if they would allow him to go and fetch it. The Indians were too crafty themselves to be caught in any such way, but offered to send and get for him such things as he should need. At the same time they made great preparations to storm Jamestown, begging their prisoner for advice on the subject, and promising him life and liberty if he would betray his countrymen. They also wished to adopt him into the tribe and offered him many inducements to join them. He refused their offers courteously enough, and for

advice told them that the English had many and great guns and engines that killed numbers of men at once. His vivid descriptions so terrified them that they gave up their plans for the time being, and in spite of the bitter winter weather, made ready to carry Smith's messages to the fort.

He therefore wrote to those at the settlement the plans of the Indians and bade them be on their guard. At the same time he asked that certain things be sent him by the messengers. The Indians went accordingly to the fort, but in great fear; and soon to their fear was added wonder when after delivering this bit of paper they found an answer just as Smith said they would. Neither they nor their chiefs at the village could decide whether Smith was a magician and could foretell the future, or whether he had made the paper talk. Moreover the English did as Smith advised in the message, and made a show of their arms and ammunition, and the sav-

ages came back to impress upon their tribe the supernatural powers of the white men.

The day after the message was sent to Jamestown, the hunting party took down its village of mats and the prisoner was led about from town to town; and in each one he heard more rumors of the power of the great Powhatan whom he still believed to be at the Falls of the James. One of the towns where they stopped for a few days had been visited before by white men. A ship once entered the river on the banks of which the town stood, and the sailors were kindly entertained by the chief and his people. This kindness was not returned by the English, for they slew the king and robbed the town, then sailed away. The Indians of that town therefore, when they heard of Captain John Smith, thought he might be the very white man who had treated them so basely, and wished to see him in order to find out. Happily they were satisfied that he was not the same Captain, or this story might never have

been written. About this time the messengers came back and the savages, more convinced than ever that Smith had magical powers, began to "entertain him with most strange and fearful conjurations." I am going to give an account of one curious ceremony exactly as Smith wrote it down in his History of Virginia.

"Early in the morning a great fire was made in a long house, and a mat spread on the one side, as on the other; on the one they caused him to sit and all the guard went out of the house, and presently came skipping in a great grim fellow all painted over with coal mingled with oil; and many snakes and weasels skins stuffed with moss, and all their tails tied together so that they met on the crown of his head in a tassel; and round about the tassel was as a coronet of feathers, the skins hanging round about his head, back, and shoulders, and in a manner covered his face; with a hellish voice and a rattle in his hand. With most strange gestures, he began his invocation

and environed the fire with a circle of meal, which done three more such like devils came rushing with the like . . . tricks, painted half black, half red; but all their eyes were painted white, and some red strokes along their cheeks; round about him those fiends danced a pretty while, and then came in three more as ugly as the rest, with red eyes and white streaks over their faces; at last they all sat down right against him; three of them on the one hand of the chief priest, three on the other. Then all with their rattles began a song, which ended, the chief priest . . . began a short oration; at the conclusion they all gave a short groan, then laid down three grains more. After that, began the song again, and then another oration ever laying down so many corns as before till they had twice encircled the fire; that done, they took a bunch of little sticks prepared for that purpose, continuing still their devotion, and at the end of every song and oration, they laid down a stick between the divisions

of corn. Till night neither he nor they did eat or drink; and then they feasted merrily with the best provisions they could make. Three days they used this ceremony; the meaning whereof they told him, was to know if he intended them well or no. The circle of meal signified their country, the circles of corn the bounds of the sea, and the sticks his country.”

After this an amusing thing happened: the savages brought a treasure to show to their prisoner. It was a bag of gunpowder which they had stolen at some time and they told him they were saving it till the spring in order to plant it as they did corn, and see what kind of seed it was. They also brought him a pistol and asked him to show them how to shoot at a mark, but Smith broke it as if by accident. He knew that just as soon as the Indians learned the use of fire-arms much of the power of the English over them would be lost.

Two days later, about January 5th, 1608,

they reached the town of Werowocomoco where lodged the great emperor and where Smith met with the most exciting adventure of his life. And of this and of Pocahontas I shall tell you in the next chapter.

IX.

THE STORY OF POCAHONTAS.

When Smith and his captors reached this famous town they were received with much pomp and ceremony. They found the emperor sitting or rather lying in state upon a great bedstead-like structure about one foot high on ten or twelve mats. There were many chains of pearls around his neck and his robe was of raccoon skins. About him were grouped his chief counsellors and attendants, making quite an array, and all gazed at Smith as if he were some strange monster.

Powhatan was an old man about seventy and had a grave and majestic countenance which filled Smith with admiration. He welcomed the famous prisoner with kindly

words, and assured him that he possessed the great chief's friendship and would in a few days regain his liberty. After a great platter of food had been offered Captain Smith and one of the women had brought water to wash his hands and a bunch of feathers instead of a towel to dry them, the king began to talk to him about many things. He seemed to be much impressed with what the captive had told the chief Opechancanough about his compass and wished to hear all that again. The only emotion which the Indians were not ashamed to show was curiosity; and in the dealings of the English with them they were as curious as children about all the strange articles, useful or otherwise, which the strangers brought with them.

Then Powhatan asked the question most important to them all—why did he come? What did this powerful white people from beyond the seas wish with the Indians' land? You remember that the Indians on the James River had murmured at the

planting and that their chief had tried to quiet them. Now Powhatan expresses the suspicions of his followers as well as his own curiosity by this question. And here, Smith drew upon his imagination and told an ingenious tale. He said that they had had a fight on the sea with their enemy, the Spaniard, and had been overpowered. A storm had driven them to this shore of Virginia and there the Indians had in one place shot at them, in another treated them with kindness; but finally when they had asked where they could get fresh water, they had been told to sail up the river for there it was all fresh. At Paspahegh they had been forced to leave the pinnace which had become leaky; they stopped there to mend her until Captain Newport, their father, should come to lead them away.

But Powhatan was not satisfied; why did Captain Smith come further up the river in a small boat? He answered that they had heard of another salt sea beyond, and wished to find it; also that a boy of Cap-

tain Newport's had been killed and they wished to find the ones who had done this wrong and take vengeance.

After some thought Powhatan began to describe to his prisoner all the country beyond them as far as he knew it. He said that above the falls the river was sometimes brackish where it dashed among the rocks, especially after a storm. This may have made some travelers think that it was connected with some body of salt water; Smith himself continued to believe that they should find a passage to the western ocean if they journeyed a little farther. Then the emperor went on to say that at the head of the bay lived a cruel tribe who had killed the white man's brother, and his death Powhatan himself would avenge. Near this tribe lived another, very warlike, who ate men. Many other tribes and regions he described, evidently very proud of the fact that they were all part of his domain, and also plainly unwilling that the white men should go any further.

Smith in reply described to the wondering chief all the territories which were subject to the king of England, the noise of his trumpets, and the terrible manner of fighting under Captain Newport whom Smith called his father and the "king of all the waters." He had evidently caught the poetic Indian fashion of nicknames. At this story of greatness, Powhatan "admired and not a little feared," and begged Smith to persuade the English to abandon Jamestown and come to live with him upon his river. He promised to give them corn, venison, and whatever they liked to eat. They in return should make him hatchets and copper and none should disturb them. And Smith promised to do what he could to bring this about.

But in spite of all this friendly talk and the many professions of confidence, the Indian Braves were preparing quite a different sort of entertainment. After a long consultation, two huge stones were set down in front of Powhatan. Then as

many as could laid hands on the prisoner, dragged him to the stones, and laid his head upon them. They then stood ready with their clubs to beat out his brains—a rather common method of execution. But at that moment the king's daughter, Pocahontas, being at this time about thirteen years old, rushed out from the women's quarters, and in spite of all attempts to stop her, took the captive's head in both her arms and laid her own down upon it. This effectually stopped the execution, for the savages standing near by would not touch her to take her away as she was the king's daughter, and the king experienced a change of heart. We are sure he was glad to give in to her entreaty for he must have been touched by the bravery as he was interested in the wisdom of the white captain. He accordingly ordered the savages to put down their clubs, and he himself renewed his invitation to Captain Smith to come to their camp and make hatchets for him and bells and beads for his daughter.

Nor did he mean to make a servant of his captive; for Smith says, “the king himself will make his own robes, shoes, bows, arrows, pots; plant, hunt, or do anything so well as the rest.”

This is the last we hear of Pocahontas for some time; what went before and after this single incident of Captain Smith’s captivity we can only imagine. Like all truly brave men, John Smith was kind and chivalrous to women and children and probably had won the young Indian girl’s heart by his gentleness when talking to her and showing her his trinkets. For all the women were very curious about the strange prisoner and no doubt came often to peer at him in his lodging, Pocahontas among them. She is spoken of later as Powhatan’s dearest daughter, so we are not surprised that her influence with her father prevailed to save Smith’s life.

It was an Indian custom—Cooper speaks of it in some of his novels—to adopt brave men into a tribe at the request of any mem-

ber. Powhatan had twice shown his eagerness to count Smith as one of his subjects, and now two days after the attempted execution, perhaps at the request of his daughter, went through a strange ceremony which meant more than a mere treaty of friendship. He caused Captain Smith to be taken to a house in the woods and there left alone on a mat by the fire. Not long after from behind another mat which divided the house into two parts, came the most doleful noise he had ever heard; then Powhatan, disguised in a most fearful manner, more like a devil than a man—and with some two hundred more as black as himself, came out and told Smith that now they were friends and that when he should go to Jamestown he should send back two great guns and a grindstone. In exchange for these gifts the king would give him the country of Capahowosick and forever esteem him as his son, Nantaquod. This new name was a proof that the adoption was complete.

The next day he was freed from his captivity and set out for Jamestown. In one place Smith tells us he had four guides to take him back to the fort, in another he says he had twelve. But few or many, they were so convinced of the deadly nature of the English arms that they could not be persuaded to approach the fort that day; and as the journey through the woods was only twelve miles long, they trifled away the rest of the afternoon, and insisted on spending the night in some old hunting lodges near the village of Paspahegh. There Smith expected every hour to be put to death, as he had expected it all through his imprisonment, but without doubt Powhatan's orders to the guides had been very strict—to deliver his adopted son in safety to his friends.

Next morning before dawn they started again and in an hour were at the fort where Smith, who had been given up for lost, was welcomed with truest signs of joy. It seems that after he had left the

barge with the seven men in it and had gone further up the river, the men had disobeyed his orders about going on shore and being watchful and had been surprised by some unfriendly Indians and one, George Cassen, had been killed. The others had without doubt escaped to the fort and told their tale, and few expected to see the gallant explorer again.

There was one who did not join in the welcome and that was a Master Archer who had been a troublesome member of the colony from the beginning, conspiring now with this one now with that, and always involved in some quarrel. When Captain Newport left the settlement on his first return to England, he had asked President Wingfield if he feared any disturbance in the colony. Wingfield replied that one might come through Captain Archer, for he was troubled with an ambitious spirit and would make a disturbance if he could. When plans were made to take the pinnace to England he was one of the first to plot

to go in her and desert the colony, and was loud in all his complaints.

While Smith was away, President Ratcliffe had made Archer one of the council, though he had promised the others he would not, and Archer began immediately to plot against Captain Smith's life. He succeeded in getting others to listen to the charges he brought against the brave captain, silly though they were. So in the midst of the enthusiastic welcome he was receiving, Smith found that he was on trial for his life, accused of being the cause of the death of the two men he had left in the canoe when he went ashore at Werowocomoco.

In the mean time the Indian guides had been kindly received, and that Smith might not seem to break his promise to Powhatan, he offered to one of them two small cannon and a millstone, all together weighing over 10,000 pounds. While the guides were wondering at the weight of these, Smith caused one cannon to be loaded with

stones and discharged into the trees, which at that time were covered with ice and snow. At the shot both ice and branches came tumbling down and the great crash so terrified the poor savages that they ran away into the woods half dead with fear. This proved to them as Smith wished it to, that it would be impossible to carry such strange engines through the forest to Powhatan. At last, recovering from their terror, the Indians consented to come back for a conference when the English "gave them such toys and sent to Powhatan, his women and children, such presents as gave them in general full content," and were a much wiser gift than the one Powhatan had asked for.

Then Captain Smith turned his attention to his enemies within the fort. He found that he was to be put to death the next day under what they called the Levitical Law, on a trumped-up charge that he was responsible for the lives of the men on the expedition with him. As I have said before the

whole thing was devised by Archer in order to get rid of him. He also found that there had been another plan among some of them, probably Ratcliffe and Archer, to escape in the pinnace to England. Altogether "they were all in combustion" as the chronicle has it, when their hearts were cheered and all lives saved by the arrival of Captain Newport from England in his good ship, with men and supplies. This was called the arrival of the *First Supply in Virginia*, and makes a second chapter in the history of the colony.

Newport we can well imagine found plenty to do and went to work without delay. First he released Wingfield from the boat where he had been all this time a prisoner and saved his life, Wingfield is sure, by allowing him to live in the town. Then he deposed Archer from the council and put on Master Scrivener, "a very wise, understanding gentleman," who had come with him from England and was to be a valuable member of the colony. Then hav-

ing landed and refreshed his men, he employed some of them in building a good storehouse of the right size, others in setting up a stove, and most of the sailors in building a church; up to this time they had had only a pulpit made of boards nailed to a tree. All of these works they finished cheerfully and in short time.

It is interesting to see how much influence this sturdy sailor had over the quarrelsome colonists. He was not one of their number, so there was no reason why they should be jealous of him; he was a good sea-captain and knew how to make men obey him, and he seemed in every way to be just the sort of umpire they needed. He succeeded where Smith failed in dealing with unruly Englishmen, but he was never so wise as Smith in dealing with the crafty savage.

Then came a very real blow to the settlement. About the 17th of January, it was almost entirely burned down with all the men's clothing, arms, and provisions. The

houses were built partly of reeds and burned fiercely, and even part of the palisade was destroyed. This happened in a time of extreme frost and many perished for want of a sufficient lodging. One of the saddest things was the loss of good Master Hunt's library and he was left with only the clothes on his back; yet the record says none ever heard him repine at his loss. Again Captain Newport came to their rescue and saved them from starving with the provisions he brought with him. He also set the men, both sailors and colonists, to work rebuilding. He knew that to keep busy was the best cure for discouragement.

X.

A SECOND VISIT TO POWHATAN.

All this time Powhatan had been sending presents to his adopted son, sometimes as often as every two days. With the messengers came Pocahontas bringing deer, turkeys, squirrels, fish, bread and raccoon skins, half for Captain Smith and half for his father, Captain Newport, whom the Indians much desired to see. At the same time they brought urgent requests that Smith would come to fetch the corn that belonged to him and take possession of the country Powhatan had presented to him. The impression of wisdom which Captain Smith had made on the savages by his discourse on the roundness of the earth and the movements of the heavenly bodies



POCAHONTAS.
After a contemporary print.

seemed to be undiminished, and now Captain Newport's arrival so soon after Smith had said he would come made the superstitious savages believe him to be an oracle. And they followed his word in everything, allowing him to fix the price of whatever they brought to trade.

But again the jealousy of the others did harm. The president and the council so envied Smith his reputation among the savages—though they all shared the good which came from it—that they tried to assure the Indians, by giving them about four times in trade what Smith had allowed, that they were as much more powerful than he as they were more generous. Then the council had been so overjoyed at the arrival of the ship that they had given the sailors liberty to trade how and when they pleased. And these newcomers were so eager for some of the things the Indians brought that they did not keep at all to the rate Captain Smith had set. It naturally came about therefore that one pound of copper would

hardly buy what one ounce had been enough for before, and trade was greatly injured.

On the other hand this generous trading and the presents sent to Powhatan made the old chief believe more than ever in the greatness of Captain Newport, of which Smith had said so much. Soon the invitations to the white father to come and visit him became so urgent and so much fuss was made about it, that early in February he, Captain Smith, and the new councilor, Master Scrivener, set out to find the headquarters of the tribe. When Captain Smith had come back from Powhatan's village after his captivity he had been led through the woods—a much shorter distance. Now they wished to go all the way by water and find out the nature of the river on the banks of which Werowocomoco lay.

This river was called the Pamunkey and flowed into the bay not far above the mouth of the James. The explorers found to their great joy that the water of the river

was salt all the way to the village, which was as far from its mouth as Jamestown was from the mouth of the James River. This made Captain Newport think that now at last they had found the entrance to the other ocean.

When they reached the place, Captain Smith, always on his guard, determined to land first with about twenty men and find out what temper Powhatan was in and if he had any treacherous motive in wishing to see Captain Newport. Marching to the town which lay a mile and a half from the river, they had to cross some marshes and little creeks, and in many places the bridges looked so frail that Smith again suspected some trap. He therefore mingled his men with the chiefs who had been sent to meet him so if anything happened to the bridge it should have upon it both Indians and white men. Some of the Indians seeing his suspicion came up in their canoes and took Smith and a few others to the bank with them. There Smith formed his few

men into a guard until the others should come safely across, and so never for one moment relaxed his vigilance. He believed that most of the Indian bravery began when they saw weakness in their opponents.

Then, two by two, the white men marched to Powhatan's house and Smith, entering alone, was received with loud signs of joy. He found Powhatan, "this proud salvage," on a throne probably made of mats, and showing such majesty as Smith declares he has not often seen in either a Pagan or a Christian. And when we remember Smith's numberless opportunities of seeing royalty in all the countries he had visited before coming to Virginia it gives us some idea of the stateliness of this Indian chief.

With a kind countenance Powhatan bade him welcome, and made a place for the white man to sit beside him. Then Smith gave him the presents they had brought, a suit of red cloth, a white greyhound, and a hat, which were received with a long speech of thanks and the public confirmation of a

lasting league of friendship. After a feast a remarkable conversation took place, for Smith had learned by now enough of the Indian dialect to talk to his host, and besides signs were a great part of the Indian language.

Powhatan began by saying, "Your kind visitation doth much content me, but where is your father whom I much desire to see (meaning Newport), is he not with you?"

Smith told him that Captain Newport had stayed on board the boat but would come to visit the chief the next day.

Then with signs of amusement Powhatan asked his guest where were the fire-arms and the grindstone which he had promised to send him when he went back to Jamestown.

Smith answered that according to his promise he had offered two cannon to the guide who had refused to take them. At this the old king laughed aloud and asked that he might have some which weighed less; he had evidently heard the story from

his guides and thought no less of Smith for his successful scheming.

Then Powhatan asked to see the men who had come with him and Smith ordered them to come in, two by two, and stand on guard. At the same time he asked Powhatan for the land which had been promised to him. The king said he should have it but that he expected all these men to lay down their arms at his feet as did his subjects.

Smith answered that this was a ceremony their enemies desired but never their friends, that next day his father Newport would give a son of his own to the great chief in sign of affection, and that they would subdue Powhatan's enemies in the land at the head of the bay, the country of the Monacans, whenever he wished and deliver the land to him. At this the old king seemed much delighted and proclaimed Smith a werowance or subordinate chief of Powhatan, with the same privileges in the land as the Indians themselves.

Thus with many signs of thanks, Captain

Smith took his leave expecting to spend the night on the boat with Newport and the others. But on reaching the river he found that contrary to his advice the boat had been allowed to drift down with the tide and could not be found; and as a storm was gathering the king ordered that the new chief should be conducted to a house nearby and carefully guarded, sending him at the same time a quarter of venison to stay his stomach. During the evening there was another long conversation with Powhatan and all this time, when because of the absence of the boat there was ample opportunity for treachery on the part of the Indians, Smith was never off his guard and never went alone or unarmed to any point. This is a good example of Captain Newport's stupidity among the Indians, and from now on he seems to understand less and less how to deal with them.

Next morning the king conducted his guest to the river and showed him with pride all his canoes, describing how he sent

them over the bay for tribute, and how many countries paid him tribute in beads, copper, and skins. While they were talking there Captain Newport and Master Scrivener came ashore from the boat, which had come back with the tide, leading with them young Thomas Savage, a boy of thirteen, who was to live with the Indians for some time and become very useful as a messenger and interpreter. They marched with much ceremony to the king and he received them with the same kindness he had shown Smith. When the boy was presented to him to be his son he was especially delighted, and gave them each one in return a huge basket of beans; Smith explains that, "Victuals you must know is all their wealth and the greatest kindness they could show us." Then they spent all day in feasting and speeches,—the Indians' greatest delight,—and the trading was put off till next day.

After a night on the boat all came ashore again fully armed and bringing the trin-

kets—hatchets, copper, beads, etc., for barter. Again Powhatan asked why they came armed like enemies, and though Captain Smith satisfied him by saying it was the custom, Captain Newport to content the chief sent thirty of the men back to the river. This was so entirely contrary to Smith's way of dealing with this crafty people that he refused to be cut off from these men and from the boat; either he or Scrivener stayed always near it and all Powhatan's contrivings could not make him give up this plan.

In the same way he and Newport differed about the trading. Powhatan in a little speech pretended to scorn trade. He said, "Captain Newport it is not agreeable with my greatness in this peddling manner to trade for trifles; and I esteem you a great werowance. Therefore lay me down all your commodities together, what I like I will take; and in recompense give you what I think fitting their value." Now this was an old trick which Smith had

learned some time ago and he replied scornfully that he would rather know how much Powhatan would give for *one* hatchet, and told Captain Newport he only wanted to cheat them. But Captain Newport was much impressed with the evident generosity of the great chief and displayed twelve coppers to see what he would receive; whereat Powhatan gave them only as much corn as Smith had obtained on the Chickahominy for the price of one copper. This naturally made Smith very indignant; and wishing to bring about a better state of things for the English, he carelessly displayed some trifles, among them some blue beads which he seemed to regard with such pride that the king immediately wanted them more than anything he had yet seen. But Smith told him that they were made of a most rare substance of the color of the skies and that only the greatest kings wore them. This of course made Powhatan desire them all the more, until finally Smith succeeded in buying with a pound or two

of them about three hundred bushels of corn. *Yet*, the record says, they parted good friends.

Several times during their stay Powhatan tried to outwit the English and to get them to give up their arms, but Smith was always ready and more than a match for him, and only Captain Newport was blundering and credulous. In the conversation about the expedition of the English against the Monacans in their country above the falls, Powhatan said he would add a hundred Indians to the white men's company; then when they had reached the falls the English could build boats to go further. This plan impressed Newport greatly as he believed that once above the falls they could find a route to the other ocean; he acted on this belief later and very foolishly, as we shall see. But Smith had no confidence in Powhatan or in the presence of the ocean, and said as much.

Yet in spite of his well-grounded suspicions the Indians once or twice showed

their real affection for the white captain in quite surprising ways. For instance, once when he and Scrivener were caught in the mud in a canoe they had taken to get out to their boat and stuck there, the Indians plunged into the water and carried them ashore, showing them every attention; so that Smith said "this kindness I found when I little expected less than a mischief."

While they were trading and feasting with Powhatan, their neighbor, King Opechancanough, sent many messengers, one after another, urging that the white chiefs come to visit him. Powhatan was reluctant to have them leave and Smith suspected plots, so they repeatedly refused, saying that Opechancanough must come to them at Powhatan's Town. Finally the persistent chief sent his daughter who said that her father had hurt his leg and could not come, and so the English were at last persuaded to make the short journey. Smith says that the wily savage came to meet him

with a natural, kind affection and seemed to rejoice to see him. There also the rare blue beads were very valuable and more corn and venison was obtained, while fine bread and game enough for thirty were given the three leaders, for Scrivener was with them. They then returned to Werowocomoco to take leave of Powhatan. The king as a return for the boy, Thomas, presented Captain Newport with a trusty Indian to be his servant and go with him to England; Smith is sure this was that he might learn the strength and condition of the White Man's country. It is interesting to think that old Powhatan planned some day to send an expedition to conquer the lands across the ocean.

On the 9th of March the little band returned to the fort with 250 bushels of corn, and a welcome sight it was to the improvident colonists. They found the president disabled, having shot and fearfully mangled his hand. They also found that the sailors were fast eating up the provisions they had.

brought over on purpose for the colonists, and were selling what was left to them at much more than the food's real value. But worst of all some one had discovered what he thought to be a gold mine and all the talk was of gold. "There was no talk, no hope, nor work but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold." Captain Newport lost his head with the rest of them, and kept the ship there when she should have been on her way back to England while he started a refinery and worked over this gold which was no gold at all. Captain Smith remonstrated with him and told Captain Martin, who could think of nothing else, that unless he could show him a better proof than any they had he, Smith, cared not at all for their "dirty skill." At last to the great content of Smith and one or two of the more able of the colonists the ship took leave, and with her sailed Master Wingfield and Captain Archer "to seek some place of better employment." We are sure Captain Smith breathed a sigh of

relief when he saw them go, and there is no doubt this wise and far-sighted leader knew that if Ratcliffe and Martin could have gone too, the colony would have been spared much trouble and suffering.

XI.

TROUBLES WITH THE INDIANS.

Captain Smith with the good help of Master Scrivener now set to work to repair the settlement. Little had been done since the disastrous fire of the January before, for men's minds had been too much taken up with all the gold they hoped to carry back with them to England to think of such prosaic things as housebuilding. The chronicle tells us that these two energetic men divided between them "the repairing our pallisadoes, the cutting down trees, preparing our fields, planting our corn and to rebuild our church and recover our storehouse."

The Indians had become very troublesome again because of their thieving habits, and no one seemed to have had the energy to put a stop to the constant raids, but "he that stole today durst come again the next day." Captain Smith took this in hand also and resolved that when an Indian stole he should not dare come anywhere near the fort the next day. So when he found out that one particular savage had the day before stolen two swords he obtained permission from the council to punish him; and when he shortly appeared again with three companions, evidently intending to carry off the first thing they could get possession of, Smith bade them be off. The thief answered by threatening Smith with his club whereupon he received a sounding blow, and before the others could revenge their leader they were met with such spirited resistance that all turned and fled. Captain Smith, the better to impress them with this lesson, chased them some distance from the settlement, ordering his men to

fire several shots after them; and they were a thoroughly scared band of robbers.

This determined opposition to their thievery was a great surprise to the Indians. Those friendly natives who were helping the English in their repairs redoubled their energies, while the would-be thieves came back in a few days trembling and begging to be friends. The news even travelled as far as the last town the English had visited, thirty miles away, and the king of the place sent back a hatchet which had been stolen while they were with him. As was his custom Smith rewarded the messenger and sent him away well content.

The 20th of April, while they were planting their corn, an alarm was given and all seized their arms, supposing it to be another attack by Indians. To their great joy a ship had been seen, and great was their surprise to welcome Captain Nelson and his good ship *Phoenix*. He had started out from London with Captain Newport, but had been beaten back by storms and obliged

to seek shelter in the West Indies. All had supposed him lost, but good captain and wise manager that he was, he stayed in the Islands until his ship was well repaired, and while there persuaded the savages to bring him provisions enough for all on board, so that when his ship finally reached Virginia his sailors had not touched the supplies sent over for the settlement. The enthusiasm with which he was welcomed and the admiration for his management—so different from that of the boat which had just left them—was well expressed by one of the settlers: “He had not anything, but he freely imparted it; which honest dealing (being a mariner) caused us to admire him; we would not have wished more than he did for us.” The colonists who arrived with Captain Nelson were a great help, for they brought new life and enthusiasm and took the places of those who were sick or discouraged.

In order to send back the *Phoenix* with valuable reports and freight the president

appointed Captain Smith and Scrivener to lead an exploring expedition of seventy men above the falls into the country of the Monacans where Powhatan was so unwilling that they should go. Captain Smith did not think this a very wise plan, yet he was ready to obey the majority of the council and spent six or seven days in training his men,—for there was every chance of meeting hostile Indians. At the end of the week they could march, fight, and skirmish in the woods and were not afraid to encounter the whole of Powhatan's force.

But now that they were almost ready to start came disputes. Captain Nelson thought the company should pay the hire of his soldiers if they were to be used in exploring, Captain Martin wished to use the fool's gold as freight for his ship, and the old jealousy of Smith revived and the fear that the fame of all discoveries should belong to him; yet neither Ratcliffe nor Martin dared to go. Captain Smith had all

along thought it the wisest plan to load the ship with cedar as of certain value rather than with dirt, as he called the supposed gold, or the report of this uncertain discovery.

While they were discussing these questions and wasting time in wrangling the Indians began to get troublesome once more. They were like naughty children and did not remember the last punishment. When Captain Newport had taken leave of Powhatan the chief presented him with twenty turkeys asking in return twenty swords which Newport very foolishly sent him. He then gave Captain Smith a similar present asking the same gift in return, but Captain Smith was too wise to furnish the Indians with arms and put him off with one pretext or another. The desire of the Indians to get these weapons by fair means or foul started the thieving again.

The orders from England had been strict not to offend the natives, for they were too valuable as traders and guides to be made

enemies of, but Smith knew that nothing but well-directed force would stop the open and impudent robbery of hatchets, swords and utensils of different kinds. So at his first opportunity he took some of the thieves prisoners. This chance came several times, for there were many savages skulking around the fort, and some of them behaved in a hostile way even toward Captain Smith. The council at last saw that this was a time for action and ordered about ten of the thieves to be shut up in the fort and securely bound. The Indians finally understanding that the English were determined to be rid once for all of such annoyances, sent messengers to treat for the release of these captives.

But their repentance was not genuine; for when Captain Smith told them they should bring back what spades, shovels, swords, or tools they had stolen or else the prisoners should hang, they were very angry and planned revenge. Next day two Englishmen hunting near the fort were



AN ATTACK ON THE SETTLERS OF JAMESTOWN.

seized by the savages and threatened with hanging. This put an end to what little patience Smith had left and he persuaded the council to take severe measures. So that night the barge was manned and going to the nearest village Captain Smith and his men set fire to some huts and destroyed what they could.

That was language the Indians could understand and next morning they brought back the two Englishmen they had captured. In return one Indian prisoner was released, but the rest were taken bound to morning and evening services each day where they saw all the white men together and armed. Up to this time they had been inclined to scoff and say their captors would not injure them, but at the sight of this goodly array of men armed with the guns they so dreaded, their jests turned to trembling. Then Smith tried threats of torture until finally one terrified savage confessed to a great plot among all the chiefs Smith and Newport had visited, even

old Powhatan himself. This was to obtain possession of all the weapons they could, and then when Captain Newport had returned with the Indian who had gone to England with him, to surprise the English, after inviting them to a great feast, and cut all their throats.

This seemed the more probable, for Powhatan had been acting in a suspicious manner lately and a few days before had sent the boy, Thomas Savage, to the fort with presents for Smith and the message that he, Powhatan, had heard shooting and feared his country was to be invaded. "We sent him word," says Smith, "we intended no such thing, but only to seek stones to make hatchets, except his men shot at us; . . . if they did shoot but one arrow we would destroy them." The boy was sent back with this message, asking also that one of Powhatan's subjects might be sent to the fort as a guide. In answer to this an Indian called Weanock came to the settlement and back with him came Thomas

again, for he had become suspicious of the Indians' plots and they feared to have him spying on them.

Finally to make sure that this talk of a plot was true, Captain Smith examined several of the prisoners separately and found that there was undoubtedly such a conspiracy. He ordered the soldiers to fire several volleys of shot during his questioning of the separate captives; each one, well frightened, thought his companions were being put to death and his own fate would soon follow, so he told what he knew with the greater eagerness.

Some days later Powhatan sent to the fort the one person he had good reason to suppose would be able to influence Captain Smith, his dearest daughter, Pocahontas, "the only nonpareil of Virginia," who Smith says, was superior to all in the land not only in beauty of face and figure, but in wit and spirit. The child had been carefully instructed by her father not to beg for the release of the prisoners but to feign the

same indifference that an Indian chief would show, and to give to the white chief some presents, assure him of Powhatan's good will, and beg that the boy Thomas be sent back for "they loved him exceedingly." At the same time Opechancanough sent asking that two of the prisoners who were his friends might be released, and many friends and relatives of other captives appeared begging for their freedom. The Indians had learned their lesson that unfriendly behavior only put the English on their guard and made them angry, and they now returned to their old friendly and trustful behavior which brought in return friendly treatment from the English.

But all the pleaders and messengers except Pocahontas, were sent off unsatisfied and in the afternoon the prisoners were led as usual to the church and after prayers were delivered to her as a sign that her intercession had obtained their release. They were well-fed, as they had been all

through their imprisonment, their bows and arrows returned to them, many trifles such as she liked were given Pocahontas, and all departed well content and with a still stronger friendship, we may well believe, between Captain Smith and the Indian princess.

Only one more attempt at perfidy was made at that time by the Indians. A savage from Paspahigh came bringing a glittering stone, which he said he found in a mine nearby and that he would lead Captain Smith to the place. Smith with one or two others started out, but the Captain's watchfulness detected something suspicious in the Indian's manner and story, and at last he refused to go farther. Instead he showed the guide, who was now evidently plotting to betray them, the copper he would have had as a reward if he had done as he promised. Giving him, instead, twenty lashes with a rope he gave him back his bows and arrows, which had been taken away from him; then bidding him shoot if

he dared, he let him go. Compared with the warfare of the times this was humane treatment on the part of Captain Smith, and the charges made against him later of cruelty towards the natives are all the time being disproved.

It was now the 2nd of June and the men were all in good health, so it was thought well to load the *Phoenix* with cedar, a valuable cargo, and send her back to England. Captain Martin, who had been sick and of little use to the colony ever since his coming, and was no doubt tired of the hardships it was necessary to endure, wished to carry the news of his supposed gold mine back to London, and was most willingly allowed to return.

The most valuable article in the ship's cargo was Captain Smith's first book which he gave Captain Nelson to deliver to the Virginia Company in London. This had a very long and imposing title, but is usually called "The True Relation," or "News from Virginia." Without it we should

not have known many of these facts which are of such real interest now as we learn about the beginnings of our beloved country. In the closing paragraph the brave and energetic writer sums up the state of things in the colony when the *Phoenix* sailed, and I want to quote his words as he wrote them.

“Wee now remaining being in good health, all our men wel contented, free from mutinies, in love with one another, and as we hope in a continual peace with the Indians; where we doubt not but by God’s gracious assistance, and the adventurers willing minds, and speedie furtherance to so honourable an action, in after times to see our Nation to enjoy a Country, not onely exceeding pleasant for habitation, but also very profitable for comerce in generall; no doubt pleasing to almighty God, honorable to our gracious Soveraigne, and commodious generally to the whole Kingdome.”

And if all this was true at the beginning

of that second summer in the year 1608, certainly Captain John Smith was the man who had done most to make it so.

XII.

THE DISCOVERY OF CHESAPEAKE BAY.

When the *Phoenix* sailed from Jamestown, Captain Smith and fourteen men, one of whom was a physician, Dr. Russell, went with it as far as the mouth of the James River. Then in their open barge of three tons' burden, the little company started to explore the great bay they had seen only the mouth of. The fort was left under the rule of Ratcliffe who was masterful and selfish in his methods and used more of the provisions for himself than he had any right to.

This trip was very much like the others that Smith had taken for discovery or to obtain provisions. Almost immediately after they parted from the *Phoenix* the explorers found themselves sailing among

some little islands which they named Smith Isles, and as such they are known to this day. Passing Cape Charles they saw two savages, "grim and stout," holding long spear-like poles with bone points. These demanded who the travellers were and what they wished, and finally became very friendly and invited them to visit their village, Accomack.

The company of white men consented to land and were well received and kindly treated, and found the chief of this tribe to be "the comeliest proper civil savage" they had yet encountered. They found here, we are told, good harbors for small boats but not for ships. For in all these excursions about Virginia we find John Smith describing the country with the same care and exactness with which he wrote of the strange lands of the Turks. Now his purpose is to show the company of merchants in London how valuable a colony this new land might be made.

From Accomack they sailed along the

coast, noting every bay and headland and all the islands scattered about to see which ones were fit for harbors and habitations. At one time a storm drove them to the land, and in a search for fresh water they went to another Indian village where the natives at first appeared hostile but under Smith's wise treatment became very friendly. But there was no good water there and the adventurers became nearly desperate in their need; they would have given its size in gold for a little puddle they had scorned in the last village. At last they came to a high point where was a large fresh-water pond and Smith in his joy named it Point Plover, for it rescued him in his distress as the noble Earl of Plover had done years before in France.

It was a rough voyage for such a small open boat; again they met a storm and were blown about among the islands and forced to patch the torn sails with their shirts. The food was wet and much of it spoiled and altogether the discomfort was

very great. When they were most uncomfortable came another assault by Indians, and these were so hostile it was necessary to disperse them by firing the guns. They of course fled at once at the noise and when the English followed them to their village they found no one there. As their custom was they left a few beads and other trinkets in token of good will, and returned to the boat. In the morning, probably as a result of this generosity, came four savages in a canoe and begged the white strangers to stay. Crowds of women and children seeing no harm came to the four braves, followed, and much trading was done. All this took some time, and while Smith was with these Indians he heard them talk about the Massawomeks, a mighty nation, which all the savages praised and feared. This greatly aroused his interest and with no thought of fear he started out to find the new tribe. Thirty leagues to the north they sailed in this search but saw no inhabitants, Captain Smith taking notes con-

stantly for his map which he was to send back to London.

The voyage had now lasted about twelve days and some of the gentlemen adventurers who had said many boastful things at the start of their own desire for exploring and their fear that Captain Smith would turn back before they were ready, began to weaken. They were tired of rowing,—the bread was wet, and they did not want to eat it,—they were more than ready to turn back. The sturdy captain stood their complaints as long as he could and then made them a little speech which showed them their weakness and lack of courage, and shamed them into continuing the journey.

“Gentlemen,” he said, “you remember the history of Sir Ralph Lane and how his company begged him to go on in a certain voyage of discovery, saying they had still a dog which being boiled in sassafras leaves would be enough food till they returned; then what a shame it would

be for you to force me to return with as much provisions as we have, when we are scarce able to say where we have been, nor yet heard of that we were sent to seek! You cannot say but I have shared with you in the worst that is past; and for what is to come of lodging, diet, or whatsoever, I am contented you allot the worst part to myself. As for your fears that I will lose myself in these unknown large waters, or be swallowed up in some storm; abandon these childish fears, for worse than is past is not likely to happen; and there is as much danger to return as to proceed. Regain therefore your old spirits, for return I will not (if God please) till I have seen the Massawomeks, found Patawomek, or the head of this water you believe to be endless."

Thus the courage and good sense of their leader aroused fresh enthusiasm and they went on up the bay for two days more. Then turning back they explored two small rivers where they met many savages,

painted and disguised, yelling and dancing and ready for war. But the sound of the white men's guns always quieted these war-like sounds, and trading and exchange of friendly signs followed. In one place they were led to a mine which seemed to contain silver, but the ore and dust which the explorers carried away proved to be of no value. The little company had also been instructed to look for furs and found some of different kinds, beaver, otter, and mink. In one place there were so many fish that the sailors attempted to catch them in a frying pan. But the fish in spite of their number could not be caught—perhaps they guessed what the frying pan was used for—at any rate the men found it a poor instrument to catch fish with. “Neither better fish, more plenty, nor more variety for small fish had any of us ever seen in any place so swimming in the water, but they were not to be caught with frying pans.”

In another place where the fish were

very numerous, Captain Smith devised a more successful way of catching them by piercing them with his sword. The others followed his example and in that fashion they took more in one hour than they could eat in a day. But while they were doing this an accident happened which might have become a tragedy and put an end to our story. One of the fish which Captain Smith caught on his sword had a long forked tail and was extremely poisonous. The captain did not know this and in taking it off the sword the creature stung him in the wrist. His hand and arm swelled so and the pain became so great that all thought he must die, and they even began at his own direction to dig his grave.

But Dr. Russell came to the rescue. With some ointment he happily had with him he quieted the pain to such an extent that by supper time our hero was ready to eat this fish which had stung him so severely; thus giving, as one of his companions writes, "no less joy and content to us than

ease to himself.” They named the island where they were about to dig the grave, Stingray Isle, after the name of this fish, and then as the doctor had no other medicines with him and the captain was still suffering from the effects of the poison, it seemed best to set sail for Jamestown.

The little company had passed through many perils of storms and hostile natives, but thanks to the seamanship and wisdom of their leader had come safely out of them all. The chronicle sums it all up in these words which give a good description of Smith’s way of dealing with the natives, “To express all our quarrels and encounters amongst those savages would be too tedious, but in brief at all times we so met them and curbed their insolence that they concluded with presents to purchase peace; yet we lost not a man; at our first meeting our Captain ever observed this order, to demand their bows and arrows, swords, mantles, and furs, with some child or two for hostage

whereby we could quickly perceive when they intended any villainy.”

They not only lost no man, but all, except the captain, were in good health and spirits. On their way to the fort they stopped at Kecoughtan, the Indian town where they had been so often before. Their savage acquaintances greeted them with amazement, believing because of the Captain's hurt and the amount of furs, bows and arrows, etc., they had on board, that they had been at war; and they begged to know against which tribes. When the English saw that their story of a peaceful journey would not be believed, they told the credulous natives that they had met and conquered the Massawomeks—whom they had not even seen; and the Indians became more convinced than ever that the great white chief was superhuman.

Then they trimmed up their barge with flags and streamers to make the settlers believe it was a Spanish ship, sailed into Jamestown on the 21st of July, and found

things as usual in a sad plight. The men who had come in the *Phoenix* were all sick; and no one could do anything but complain of the pride and cruelty of the foolish Ratcliffe, who had used up the stores for himself and set the men to work for his own pleasure and not for the settlement. Had not Smith arrived at that moment with news of his discoveries and the hope that this great and beautiful Chesapeake Bay stretched up to the other sea for which they were so constantly searching, it would have gone hard with the worthless President.

The settlers were finally persuaded by Smith to give up their ideas of revenge on the condition, which they made, that he would himself become president of Virginia. To quiet them, Smith consented; but he wished to complete the work he had undertaken and succeeded in substituting in his place Master Scrivener, who was an honest man and his good friend. He himself divided among all equally the

stores Ratcliffe had taken possession of, and appointed able men to assist Scrivener in governing the young colony. Then he left the settlers to recover their health and to rest from work because of the summer heat and, three days after his landing, sailed off in the little barge with twelve picked men to finish his discovery. They stopped again at Kecoughtan and told the natives they were going to find the Massawomeks and take vengeance for the former attack. They then set off a few sky-rockets, which so terrified the poor savages they supposed nothing impossible for these wonderful strangers and begged to assist them in their wars.

In two days' time the barge reached the point where the bay divides, and while exploring these branches the English came upon seven or eight canoes full of Massawomeks—the people they had been looking for. From now on the trip is one succession of encounters with strange tribes, and of wise stratagems or vigorous and suc-

cessful attacks on the part of the English. In this first encounter all the English but five were too sick to fight; but the others instead of giving up in despair, laid the invalids in the bottom of the boat under a tarpaulin and put their hats up on sticks along the sides, so that the boat seemed full of fighting men. This sight was too much for the brave Massawomeks who hurried to the shore and stayed there till the barge had sailed by, nor could they be persuaded to approach it.

At last two of the braves consented to go out to the barge in a canoe, the rest slowly following to see that they received no hurt. The English won their hearts immediately by presenting them with beads, bells, and other trinkets; and learned by signs that these Indians had just returned from fighting another warlike tribe, the Tockwoghs. The Massawomeks told them how savage this tribe was, but that only made Captain Smith the more eager to find them, and the next day the

English boat sailed up the river leading to their towns. Almost immediately it was surrounded by a number of canoes filled with these armed and fierce warriors. Fighting would certainly have followed had not the English found one Tockwogh brave who could speak the language of Powhatan. They told him that they had just come from a victory over the Massawomeks, and were then of course received as allies with great rejoicing, and conducted to the various villages.

Among the houses of the Tockwoghs the white men, interested in all they saw, found pieces of iron and brass which they were told had been taken in war from the Susquehannas, who lived two days' journey beyond where the English boat could go. They were eager to see this tribe also and a message was sent from the Tockwoghs asking the Susquehannas to come and meet the white visitors. After three or four days about sixty of them, giant-like people, came bringing presents of veni-

son, tobacco pipes three feet in length, baskets, and other articles.

One of the visitors was a giant indeed and Captain Smith thus describes him: "The calf of his leg was three-quarters of a yard about; and all the rest of his limbs so answerable to that proportion that he seemed the goodliest man that ever we beheld. His hair on one side was long, the other shore close, with a ridge over his crown like a cockscomb. His arrows were a yard and a quarter long." "These were the most strange people of all those countries, both in language and attire"; for their voices matched their proportions and sounded like an echo from a deep cave. They wore the skins of bears and wolves, often putting their own heads through the animal's neck so that its head hung down in front or behind. Sometimes their tobacco pipes had prettily carved heads in the form of a bird, bear, or deer, and were heavy enough to beat out the brains of a man.

Every day the English were accustomed to have a prayer and a psalm read from their prayer-book, as they always did at the fort, and this practice much amazed all the savages. One day after the service was ended the Susquehannas consulted among themselves and then began their own religious ceremony. First they held up their hands to the sun, singing a "most fearful song," then turning to Captain Smith began to embrace him and pray to him though he rebuked and tried to stop them. They then covered him with a great bear's skin, hung a chain of huge white beads about his neck, and laid a great mantle of furs and various other offerings at his feet, begging him at the same time to stay with them and rule them and help them against the Massawomeks. "But we left them at Tockwogh," says the chronicle, "sorrowing for our departure, yet we promised the next year again to visit them."

Going on from there, the English gave

names to all the capes, islands and headlands which they passed, and two again remind us of John Smith's early life,—*Peregrine's Mount* and *Willoughby River*, in honor of the town he was born in and the family of Lord Willoughby, "his most honoured good friend." At the farthest points of the rivers they sailed up they cut crosses in the trees and left in holes in the trees letters and little crosses made of brass, to show anyone who might come that Englishmen had been that way before.

On the Rapahannock River they met a savage named Mosco, whom they had known before and who warned them against the tribe of the Rapahannocks. But Captain Smith was not to be turned back and for the first time the English ran into a really dangerous ambushade. The shields the Massawomeks had given them now became very useful, for they hung them all around the sides of the boat making a sort of breastwork, and though nearly a thousand arrows were shot the English

escaped without any hurt. They even captured from their foes, who greatly outnumbered them, many canoes which they presented to Mosco who had been of the greatest assistance in the skirmish.

A day or two later while sailing up another river, they were surprised at seeing an arrow fall into the boat, though no savage was visible. In a few minutes, however, they made out about a hundred nimble savages skipping from tree to tree and a fight followed lasting half an hour; then the Indians as suddenly vanished. One of them happily was taken prisoner, and the English questioned him as to the nature of this country and the number of tribes. When they asked him why his people came in that manner to betray those who came in peace, he answered they had heard that the English were a people come from under the world to take their world from them. When asked how many worlds he knew, he replied he knew only that under the skies which covered him, which was inhabited

by the Powhatans, the Monacans, and the Massawomeks; and that beyond the mountains was the sun. Further than the mountains the Indians could not go because the "woods were not burnt."

Two other meetings the English had with the hostile savages before they reached Jamestown; but in both cases a complete victory was gained by this little boatload of white men, and best of all in every case they left the Indians their friends, succeeded in trading with them, and in making them give satisfaction for any injury they had inflicted on the English. And always the Indians gave them valuable presents and begged them to come back soon again.

At last after experiencing these dangerous ambuscades and fierce storms of wind, thunder, and lightning, they reached Jamestown on the 7th of September, well and in good spirits. There they found things in a better state than formerly. Master Scrivener, who had been dangerously sick, was

entirely recovered as were most of the other invalids they had left. Some however had died and some were sick; but the late President Ratcliffe was a prisoner for mutiny and by the honest diligence of Master Scrivener the harvest had been gathered, though the provision in the storehouse had been much injured by the rain.

XIII.

PRESIDENT JOHN SMITH OF VIRGINIA.

On September 10th, 1608, by the election of the council and the request of the company, Captain Smith was made President of Virginia, and though he had often before refused this honor, now consented to serve. With his usual energy he began right away to make many needed repairs and reforms in the settlement. He stopped the useless building of a large house for Ratcliffe, repaired the church and the storehouse, made provision for the supplies they expected from England, strengthened and enlarged the fort, and started a scheme of military drill for the men. They marked out a training-ground and named it *Smithfield*, and there the Indians used

to stand around in amazement while the soldiers shot at marks and had guard drill under the direction of their leader. As provisions were always needed the boat was overhauled and fitted out for trade and sent out on a little trip under Lieutenant Percy. But before it had gone far it met Captain Newport on his way back to Jamestown with the second supply from the London company.

Captain Newport seems to have lost his head on his arrival in London, for he returned from there with strange and foolish instructions to the poor colonists who were only just beginning under the wise guidance of their new president to establish themselves in the country. These instructions, which must have been suggested by Captain Newport, were to explore the country of the Monacans—where you remember he was sure they should find an entrance to the other ocean—and not to come back till they had found one of the lost colony sent over some years before by

Sir Walter Raleigh, a lump of gold, or this same southern sea. They brought a barge in five pieces which was to be carried over the mountains and used to sail on this ocean in.*

But most foolish of all, they were to crown Powhatan Emperor of the Indians, and take him some costly presents, a ewer and basin, a bed, bedstead, and some fine clothes, for which he had no use. This idea seemed to Captain Smith very silly indeed and he wisely declared that these presents would have been much better well spared than so ill-spent, "for we had his favor better only for a plain piece of copper till this stately kind of soliciting made him so overvalue himself that he respected us as much as nothing at all."

About seventy men had come over with Captain Newport in this second supply, and with them were Mistress Forest and her maid, Anne Burras, the first women of the colony. Among these seventy, instead

*See Appendix, p. 279.

of good mechanics, carpenters, and workmen for the settlement, Captain Newport had brought with him some Poles and Dutchmen who were to make pitch, tar, glass, and other things to send back to England. This would have been well enough if the colony had been in existence for several years, but now it was only so much work wasted and more mouths to feed. When they should all have been busied in tilling the ground, cutting down trees and building houses, and gathering in provisions for the winter, they were obliged to engage in useless labors, go on a useless voyage of discovery, and a worse than useless visit to Powhatan.

But Smith's advice and entreaty could not stop Captain Newport, for he had the majority of the council on his side, and a hundred and twenty men were appointed to go with him on his journey to the land of the Monacans. It is hard to see why Newport, formerly so wise and helpful, had changed in this way, unless it is

because his gold had all turned out to be mica and the London company had made so much fun of him that it made him bitter. Perhaps he felt he must get even with some one because of his own folly, and so tried to lay the blame on Captain Smith. In reply to some of Smith's objections he promised to bring back the pinnace laden with corn, and to load her again when he went to crown Powhatan. For the rest he sneered at the President's warnings and said that Smith wanted to make all the discoveries himself, and if he had not been so cruel in his treatment of the Indians things would have gone more smoothly. To this Captain Smith answered that he would go to Powhatan with four men, where Newport dared not go with fewer than one hundred and twenty; and would ask the king to come to Jamestown to be crowned and get his presents, and so save the time and strength of the colonists. We can well imagine his impatience and indignation at this foolish charge.

Starting on this vain errand the five men went the short way through the woods, crossed the river in a canoe, and came to the village while Powhatan was away. While they were waiting for him to come back they were entertained by Pocahontas and other Indian girls who performed a curious sort of masquerade dance in the woods, and with the usual feast. When the old king arrived the next day Smith told him about the presents, gave him back Namontack, the Indian who had gone to England with Captain Newport, and asked him to come to the fort to be crowned and to help them plan the expedition against the Monacans.

Powhatan's reply was dignified and most reasonable, "If your king hath sent me presents, I also am a king and this is my land; eight days will I stay to receive them. Your father (Newport) is to come to me, not I to him, nor yet to your fort; neither will I bite at such a bait; as for the Monacans, I can avenge my own

injuries, but for any salt water beyond the mountains the relations you have had from my people are false." There seemed to be nothing more to say—no doubt Captain Smith agreed with the old chief—so he returned to the fort with this reply and the council was forced to be content.

They sent all the presents by water therefore, and the two captains, with fifty men, went to Werowocomoco by land. When they had all met there the very interesting and entirely ridiculous ceremony of the coronation took place. Powhatan did not know quite what they wanted to do nor why, but he endured it all with the usual Indian stoicism. First the presents were given him, and he showed a little hesitation about putting on the clothes and the scarlet cloak until Namontack explained that they would do him no harm. But when it came to kneeling to receive the crown all his stoicism gave way and he absolutely refused to take the strange attitude. Finally several of

the English by leaning hard on his shoulders made him stoop a little, then three more placed the crown on his head, and at a signal a volley of shot was fired from the boat. This took the king so by surprise that he started up in horrible fear; but seeing that all was well he remembered his dignity, and to reward their kindness gave his old shoes and his mantle to Captain Newport and about eight bushels of corn. But he absolutely refused to lend them men or guides for the Monacan trip. With that small result of this elaborate journey, the English returned to the fort.

A few days later with the promised one hundred and twenty men Captain Newport started for the Monacan country, leaving about eighty men, among them the Poles and Dutchmen, in the fort with Captain Smith. It turned out to be a discouraging trip. Nothing of importance was discovered and soon they came back to Jamestown half sick, all complaining, and tired out with the labor and famine,—for they could not

even find corn, much less gold or the South Sea. When they returned, Captain Smith set them all to work and thirty of the gentlemen he took some five miles down the river to chop down trees for lumber to load the ship and supply the settlement.

In this task Smith set the example, and soon the adventurers found themselves working as they never had before and liking it too. There was only one drawback, the axes blistered their hands, unused to such labor, and the men got into the habit of swearing at the pain. Their leader did not approve of this habit of profanity, so he devised a way to break it up. Through the day each man's oaths were counted and at night the same number of cans of water was poured down his sleeves. This proved to be such a good cure that at last scarcely one oath a week was heard. These gentlemen soon became expert woodsmen, far better than the laborers whom they had been obliged to drive to

work in the first days of the colony, yet as Smith says, "Twenty good workmen had been worth them all."

All this time having been consumed in discovery and in getting together freight for the ship, there was no provision made for the coming winter. So Smith, leaving Scrivener in charge at the fort, set sail in the barge for the land of the Chickahominies to trade for corn. But the temper of the savages had strangely changed; they had no corn, or they wanted it themselves, and their manner was insolent and hostile instead of friendly and affectionate. Smith soon learned that in some way Powhatan, made bold by the absurdly ceremonious treatment of the English, had influenced the neighboring tribes to try and starve out the unwelcome strangers. Whereupon he changed his own manner and told the inhospitable natives that he had come to avenge the death of his two men, and so immediately began to make ready to attack them. The startled Indians fled and sent messen-

gers with provisions of different kinds to make the peace. As a result of this vigorous action Captain Smith went back to the fort with a hundred bushels of corn, followed by Lieutenant Percy with as much more.

There he found that bad feeling had begun again in the settlement. Newport and Ratcliffe especially showed their jealousy of Captain Smith's success and accused him of leaving the settlement when he had no right to, being its president. They did not then stop to think that if he had not gone they might all have starved. But Captain Smith's popularity with the colonists was now too great for these discontented ones to be able to do him any harm. They could only hinder and make it hard and disagreeable in many ways, and this they did not fail to do.

Trading was in a bad state too. The colonists had been for some time taking articles from the public store and using them for private trading both with the In-

dians and with the sailors, so getting furs and baskets as well as food from the ship for themselves when they should have been procuring necessities for the colony. At last Smith threatened to hold the ship by force and let Captain Newport see what a year in Virginia really was like, and this fairly frightened him into leaving with his freight of pitch, tar, glass and the other experiments, and a really valuable cargo of wood. With him went a letter* from Captain Smith to the Virginia Company in London which is so straightforward and wise it is well worth reading. It shows very clearly all the colony had had to suffer needlessly because of the stupidity of the people in England who should have been helping instead of hindering them.

When Captain Newport went back to England he left two hundred people in the settlement with no provision for the winter, the time having been used up in these senseless experiments. Captain Smith sent

*See Appendix, p. 278.

men on different trading expeditions but the Indians had all turned sulky; his was the only successful trip and that only partially so. He therefore determined to surprise Powhatan and take by force or strategy what the old conspirator was influencing the Indians not to barter. In the midst of these plans and unsuccessful efforts to find food the first wedding took place in Jamestown and Anne Burras was married to John Laydon, a laborer who came over with the first company of adventurers. We wish now that some one had written down a description of this wedding for we may be sure it was a very joyful one.

Two of the council, Scrivener and a new member, Captain Winne, were opposed to Smith's plan to beard Powhatan in his den, but the old chief himself brought matters to a head by sending for Smith to come to visit him. He also sent word that if the white chief would bring to Powhatan a grindstone, fifty swords, some pieces

(guns), a cock and hen, with copper and beads and men to build him a house, he would load his ship with corn. This modest request did not at all deceive the President; still he sent to Werowocomoco three Dutchmen to build the house, for it made fewer to feed at the fort. He then planned with Captain Waldo, another new counselor, to go to Powhatan's town with forty-six men—only those who volunteered—leaving Scrivener in charge at the fort.

On the 29th of December the courageous band set out in the pinnace and two barges, and stopping on their way for provisions, were warned by friendly Indians that Powhatan had sent for them only to cut their throats. Bad weather kept them a week among their old friends at Kecoughtan and there they kept Christmas merrily, feasting on oysters, fish, and game in plenty. From there to Werowocomoco they suffered many hardships and were often obliged to spend the night on the frozen ground without shelter of any kind. However, on

they went, neither terrified nor disheartened, and when at last they reached their destination they found the creeks so frozen it was impossible to get the boats to the shore.

Still undaunted, Captain Smith took with him a few men and they broke through the ice, and gained the land by walking up to their waists in the muddy water. Powhatan received them in the old affectionate way but after the usual feast, asked them when they expected to go; for he said he did not send for them and had no corn,—yet in return for forty swords would find for them forty bushels. Smith accused the chief of forgetting his messages and said besides that he had no swords nor guns to spare. He had sent men to build Powhatan's house, why did the Indian break his word and betray the friendship they had pledged. Smith would not injure him in any way unless he himself was first harmed.

The chief seemed touched by these words,

and with more frankness than perhaps he intended, explained the whole situation. "Captain Smith some doubt I have of your coming hither that makes me not so kindly seek to relieve you as I would; for many do inform me your coming is not for trade but to invade my people and possess my country; they dare not come to bring you corn seeing you thus armed with your men. To clear us of this fear, leave your weapons on board; for here they are needless, we being all friends and forever Powhatans." At the same time he said he would get corn for them within the next two days.

When Smith first came, the Dutchmen he had sent on ahead, thinking to gain advantage for themselves, had betrayed to Powhatan the starving state of the English; and from that moment till Smith's departure the wily chief did not leave off begging his visitor to disarm his men. He used many arguments and finally said there was no Werowance among the Powhatans whom their king had treated so kindly as

he had Captain Smith, yet they all obeyed him and Smith refused to do this one thing his king asked,—order his men to lay down their arms. Captain Smith answered with much dignity that he was not Powhatan's subject but a loyal follower of the king of England; yet to show the love he bore his Indian friend, the next day he would leave his arms on the boat and trust to Powhatan's promise.

But Smith, as well as Powhatan, was now only trying to gain time. He expected all his men to land on the next day, when the Indians, who stood enough in awe of the white man to obey his orders, should have broken the ice that the boat might come to the shore. There were only eight men now with him and he needed the rest to act as guard and help carry away some ten bushels of corn he had secured in exchange for a copper kettle.

Next morning when Powhatan realized that Smith was to be reinforced he fled secretly with his household, leaving his In-

dians to surround the place where Smith was and capture him. The braves all gathered around this house but the hardy Captain was not to be surprised in this way, and breaking through the crowd which dispersed at sight of his sword and pistol, he gained the shore with his small guard, all of them unhurt. Powhatan learning that he had escaped and that the boat had nearly reached the shore, sent a present to the English with excuses for his hasty departure, and begged that they would take their corn on board and then come back without their arms.

While they were conferring the barge was carried out by the tide again, and the English were obliged to come back to the house Powhatan had assigned them for their quarters. During the evening the Indians were making merry and giving signs of friendship but all the time they were devising a plan to murder Captain Smith and his men while they were at supper. But again Pocahontas saved his life.

For after it was dark the little Princess came secretly through the woods and warned her white friend that some of the Indians before long would bring them a great feast and would try to kill them while they were engaged in eating it. If these were not successful Powhatan himself with a great force would come later and accomplish it. "Therefore if we would live she wished us presently to be gone. Such things as she delighted in he (Captain Smith) would have given her, but with the tears running down her cheeks she said she durst not be seen to have any, for if Powhatan should know it she were but dead, and so she ran away by herself as she came." Thanks to this warning the night was spent in unceasing watchfulness, and the Indians not being able to take the English off their guard did not dare to carry out their plans.

Next morning they all departed to the Pamunkey to try to trade with Opechanca-nough and his people. Captain Smith left

the treacherous Dutchmen to finish the house and one Englishman to shoot game for the Indian King, with orders to keep on as friendly terms with the natives as possible so that when the company returned there should be more chance to get the food they intended to take back to the Fort. They had no sooner left than Powhatan returned and sent two of the Dutch traitors to the fort to say that Captain Smith sent word that all was well with him but that he and his company all needed more arms. The people at the fort never thought of distrusting this message, and in this way the traitors obtained for the Indians a great many swords and guns with powder and shot, and returned unsuspected; for they believed they could live with Powhatan more comfortably and be free from all the miseries that afflicted the colony.

Meantime the English were having an exciting visit with Chief Opechancanough. They were received with the usual cheer,

but when Smith and fifteen of his men went up to the Chief's house to trade everything seemed deserted. Soon the Chief arrived and many of his people, all armed but not bringing with them the promised food to sell. Captain Smith therefore accused the Indian of deceit, and of desiring to see the English starve, and reminded him that "it is fit for kings to keep their promises." This was all so true that the king consented to sell them some food that day, and promised that next day there should be more.

Next morning after Smith and the same fifteen men had come up from the boats to the chief's house and were beginning to trade, Dr. Russell came suddenly in and said to Smith that they were betrayed, for the house was surrounded by about seven hundred well-armed braves. The English were naturally much terrified but their leader quieted them by reminding them that firing their guns only would frighten away the savages. Before they resorted to

violence however he wanted to try another plan, for if they killed the Indians they could get no food. He then turned to the crafty old chief, who saw that Smith understood the situation, and challenged him to single combat on an island nearby, saying that he who won should be lord and master over all the men and take all the corn and the copper. The Indians were not as fond of duels as were the Turks, and though the king seemed to accept this plan, yet guarded by sixty of his warriors, he asked Smith to come outside the door to receive a present they had made ready for him.

When John Smith acted it was with startling rapidity; so perceiving that armed Indians were behind the trees ready to shoot him if he ventured outside the house, he suddenly seized Opechancanough by his long scalplock, and holding his pistol against the chief's breast, led him out before all his people. They, overwhelmed with amazement that anyone should dare to treat their king so, cast down their arms

and were ready to trade. Captain Smith followed up his advantage by telling them that if they shed one drop of English blood he would not cease revenge till their tribe was wiped out. And if they did not load his ship with corn as they had promised, he would load it with their dead bodies. Yet if they would come and trade like friends he promised not to trouble them.

It must have been his boldness and audacity that saved his followers, for they were only a handful of white men in the midst of all these savages. But the brave Englishman never faltered, and the chronicle tells us that "the rest of the day was spent with much kindness, the company (of Indians) again renewing their presents of their best provisions. And whatever we gave them they seemed well contented with it."

XIV.

THE FINAL VICTORY OVER THE SAVAGES, AND CAPTAIN SMITH'S DEPARTURE.

While Captain Smith was using all his wits to procure food for the settlement, Scrivener at the fort was betraying the trust committed to him. He had evidently been made unfriendly by his ambitions, and instead of obeying the president's orders and staying by the fort, he took the skiff and with eighteen others—much too heavy a load for the little boat—started off on an expedition of his own. They were overtaken by a storm, the skiff was overturned, and all were drowned,—a terrible loss to the little colony. Their bodies were found by some Indians; and as every accident to the English was grateful to these

unfriendly natives, they were the more encouraged to carry out their plots.

It was hard to find anyone at the fort who would carry the bad news to the president; but at last one of the gentlemen, Richard Wiffin, volunteered. He suffered many hardships by the way and during the one night he spent with Powhatan was much impressed with the preparations for war—probably against the English—which he saw going on in the Indian village. At last after three days' travel he found Captain Smith and his men about to leave the Pamunkey. Smith, much saddened by the bad news, made the messenger promise to keep it a secret from the rest of the company and especially from the Indians, and they all got safely aboard the boat.

In fact the whole country was now full of conspiracies against Captain Smith's life and the only things that saved him were his unfailing watchfulness, the wholesome fear the Indians had for his guns, and a certain awe for his person,—they still be-

lieved him to be superhuman. Then too, they probably realized that the English would take a terrible revenge if anything should happen to their leader. In the final trading with Opechancanough a well-planned plot against himself and his company was discovered by Smith and only thwarted by an equally clever ambushade on the part of the English. Then one of the tribe tried to poison him, but this was unsuccessful, and they all finally got off with a good load of corn and no hurt to any man.

But great was their disappointment on reaching Werowocomoco to find that the Dutchmen had warned Powhatan of the plan of the English to seize his provisions and the wily chief had left the village for one of his other camps, taking with him all the corn there was. One of the main reasons for keeping friends with the other Indians had been not to alarm Powhatan, and the disappointment was for this reason all the greater. One of the soldiers in his

account of the expedition states the policy of the company in an interesting way: "Many may think it strange there should be this stir for a little corn; but had it been gold, with more ease we might have got it; and had it wanted (been lacking) the whole colony had starved. We may be thought very patient to endure all those injuries. Yet only with fearing them (meaning the Indians) we got all what they had, whereas if we had taken revenge, then by their loss we should have lost ourselves."

The President, seeing that he could accomplish nothing by staying longer near this village, and that revenge for the broken promises would be worse than useless, kept on his way to Jamestown and reached there early in February, having been gone six weeks. In spite of all the trouble and danger he had secured enough food to keep forty men from hunger during the journey, besides delivering to the keeper of the storehouse on his arrival 279 bushels of corn.

Having provided their food he began to plan for the better management of the colony. The council was dissolved by the death of most of its members and there was no one now to dispute the President's authority. He divided the colonists into companies of tens and fifteens and four hours each day was spent in work, the rest in games and exercise. But not all worked willingly; there was discontent and evident treachery, for some of the tools and even the arms had disappeared. Captain Smith on this account called a general assembly of the colonists and made them a speech, which put heart into the discouraged and made the lazy and cowardly much ashamed of themselves and determined to do better,—for a while.

After praising those who had done well, the President said, "The greater part must be more industrious or starve. . . . Now the authority resteth wholly in myself you must obey this for a law, that he that will not work shall not eat, except by sickness

he be disabled. For the labors of thirty or forty honest men shall not be consumed to maintain one hundred and fifty idle varlets. . . . He that offendeth, let him assuredly expect his due punishment." A notice board also was put up on which was kept a record of every man's achievements, and this and the punishments which were strictly inflicted, kept even the most hopelessly lazy at their work.

But all this time the Dutchmen were plotting with the Indians, and Powhatan and his chiefs were making plans to capture or kill Captain Smith. Ambuscades were planned and one of these was nearly successful. It resulted however in a single combat between Smith and the king of Paspahegh, a "most strong and stout savage," in which they fell struggling together into the river and were rescued by some men from the fort, and the Indian taken prisoner. This capture caused great excitement among the tribes and when the chief escaped, as he finally did, skirmishes be-

tween the Indians and the English became very frequent.

At last Captain Smith determined once more to act with vigor and attack some of the Indian villages. On his first expedition of revenge six or seven savages were killed and as many taken prisoner. He burnt their houses, took their boats and fishing utensils for his own use, and "now resolved not to cease till he had revenged himself upon all that had injured him."

This decision was soon evident to the tribes and when he came to the villages of the Chickahominies they all threw down their arms and desired peace. Captain Smith promised not to attack them until they should do the English an injury, and on the further condition that they furnish him with provisions. This bargain they accepted and parted good friends, which friendship continued about one week, until the English reached Jamestown again.

There Captain Smith was told that though the Chickahominies were trading,

at the same time they were thieves,—for a pistol had been stolen and two young Indian brothers, members of this tribe and accomplices of the thief, had been taken prisoners. One of the Indians was sent to find his accomplice and get the pistol and was told if he did not return with it in twelve hours his brother, who was in prison, would be hanged. Captain Smith taking pity on the poor anxious captive sent him food and some charcoal for a fire.

Before midnight the messenger returned with the pistol but the savage in the dungeon, not knowing the danger of charcoal, was suffocated by the fumes and also badly burned. The returning Indian mourned and bewailed his brother's death and the President to quiet him told him that if they would never steal again he would bring the dead man to life. So the English rubbed him and gave him restoratives, and though they hardly dared hope it, he did regain sensibility, but seemed to have lost his wits and talked in a most distracted

way. This grieved the crazed man's brother as much as his apparent death had done but the President promised the captive's complete recovery on condition of their good behaviour ever after; and then simply by seeing to it that the Indian had a good night's sleep returned him to his sorrowing brother entirely restored. Then they dressed the savage's burns and sent them both away with a few pieces of copper, well-content and spreading the news everywhere that the great white chief could raise the dead to life.

This supposed miracle and the complete surrender of the tribes on the Chickahominy frightened Powhatan and at last brought him too to seek for peace. He even sent back stolen articles quite forgotten about by the English, and a new state of things began. Treachery and ambuscades ceased, thieves were sent to Jamestown to be punished, and all the country was free from strife.

But now a harder problem than Indian

quarrels had to be solved. In three months much had been done, an excellent well of fresh water had been dug in the fort, the first successful glass was made, some twenty new houses built and old ones repaired. A block-house was put up on the neck of land connecting the settlement with the mainland, and strict rules made that a watch should be kept and no one allowed to go by without the President's permission. Thirty or forty acres of land were tilled and planted, and places made for the sixty pigs and one hundred and fifty chickens,—so much had the live-stock increased in three years.

But in looking over the stores they found much of the corn rotten and the rest nearly consumed by rats. This made it necessary to stop work and plan for food. It was easier for them to live at this season if they were not all gathered in one little settlement, so the President sent a company of eighty down the river to live on oysters, and twenty more went to Point Comfort to

fish. A few went up to the Falls—where the city of Richmond now stands—but these could find nothing but berries and acorns. And the old trouble again arose, that a few were industrious and the rest remained idle and expected food to be found for them. There was plenty to eat all about them but the President had to watch constantly lest the lazy ones, rather than work, should sell to the savages all the articles they could find, even their own guns and swords, for the native fruits these brought to the settlement.

Finally he found out the leader of these mutinous idlers and punished him; then said to the others: “The sick shall not starve but equally share in all our labors, and every one that gathereth not every day as much as I do, the next day shall be set beyond the river and forever be banished from the fort and live there or starve.”

The guilty ones murmured at what they called the cruelty of this order yet so bestirred themselves that out of two hundred

men only seven or eight died in nine months' time. The Indians seemed completely won over and showed in so many ways their affection for Smith that one of the soldiers said there was more hope to make good Christians and subjects of them than of half the English who were supposed to be both. One old chief who lived near by, though he was zealous in worshipping his false gods, yet often sent the President presents, begging that he would pray to his God for rain. The savage believed He was as much greater than the gods of the Indians as the English guns were greater than the Indian bows and arrows.

And now the conspiracy so long planned by the Dutchmen was first discovered, for they chose this time to try to betray the English to Powhatan. But the chief had learned at last who was the head of the English and preferred to keep his friendship with Captain Smith. He therefore refused to shelter the traitors when they

came to take refuge with him, and several efforts were made to capture them and put them to death. For one reason or another the Dutchmen continued to escape punishment, unless the fact that from this time on they were outcasts, both from the fort and from Powhatan's village can be considered sufficient punishment for such treachery as theirs. In the midst of this time of hunger and of search for the traitors, Captain Argall came from England to fish in the river and his ship furnished the colonists with biscuits, a welcome change from fish and berries.

But a worse foe than hunger or even the Dutch traitors was in store for the hard working and devoted president. Slandrous tongues had been at work in London—probably Ratcliffe, Archer, and other malcontents,—and a new commission was appointed to govern Virginia. The officers were instructed to look into the reasons why the new colony had not repaid the company better, and into the charges

against Captain Smith of cruelty towards the Indians. The expedition which left England in May was a large one, nine ships holding five hundred people; but one ship was lost on the way and another containing the three leaders of the commission was shipwrecked in the Bermudas. With the seven remaining ships came Ratcliffe, Archer, and Martin. They began to be troublesome and to plot while they were still at sea, and turned the minds of the other soldiers and colonists against Captain Smith before they had even seen him.

When the fleet was sighted the lookout at the settlement thought them to be Spanish ships, for the English were always expecting the Spaniards to swoop down on them to destroy the young colony. Captain Smith for that very reason had caused a block-house to be built near the mouth of the harbor, and he now stationed guards and planned the defense so skilfully that the English rather looked forward to the fight. But those who actually arrived were

not so easy to deal with. The commission was without a leader and quarrel after quarrel arose, plot after plot was hatched, and once or twice even the President's life was in danger.

There were entirely too many colonists now to live in the little settlement, and all was confusion. Finally Captain Smith brought some sort of order out of the chaos; he sent Master West, who had come over with the second supply, to the Falls with one hundred and twenty men to start a settlement there and Captain Martin to Nandsemund, near the mouth of the river, with as many more. At the end of his year Captain Smith handed over the presidency to Captain Martin who held it just three hours, then knowing his incompetency, handed it back again. It looked as if these men were always ready to grumble, but when it came to taking actual responsibility and doing something they quickly gave out.

The companies Smith had sent out soon got into trouble. The one at Nandsemund

quarrelled stupidly with the Indians, who were at peace with the whites, and quite unnecessary skirmishes followed. The one at the Falls was in a very inconvenient and unhealthful location, an unwise choice of Master West, and Captain Smith had to go up in his ship to adjust matters. He offered to settle the discontented company on the site of Powhatan's old village which the Indian chief was willing to sell to the English. But they refused and turned against Smith who escaped from their anger with difficulty to his ship. It seems that they were excited by the thought of the gold they might find above the Falls and feared interference.

But worst of all was their breaking faith with the savages. These had kept their promises and brought regularly their contribution of corn to the English; but the company at the Falls so harassed and tormented them that they complained to Smith, saying he had sent them as protectors against the Monacans worse foes

than the Monacans themselves. Nine days did the President stay at the Falls trying to convince those foolish people that their hopes of gold were vain and their best fortune was to cultivate the land and keep peace with the Indians. But words did no good and no sooner had he left for Jamestown than the savages rose in their wrath and scattered the settlement, killing many and completely terrifying the rest. Happily the ship had grounded and so was not far on its way, and the fleeing settlers begged Smith's aid again. This time he settled them at Powhatan's town where a fort had been built and named Nonsuch. Everything would then have gone smoothly had not the attraction of possible gold and the persuasions of those who were constantly discontented proved too strong for them, and the President was hardly out of sight when they all rushed back to the Falls and to the entrance to the Monacan country.

On his way back to Jamestown a terrible

thing happened to the President. While he was sleeping in the small boat, a powder bag near him was accidentally set fire to and exploded, wounding him frightfully. Crazed by the pain he jumped into the water and was rescued with difficulty. There was no physician to attend him, and in constant torment, he was taken the distance of nearly one hundred miles to Jamestown. Though weak and in misery he tried to attend to the affairs of the colony and deal with the mutineers as he should and had planned to do. They, Ratcliffe, Archer, and the rest, seeing him sick and wretched, plotted to have him murdered as he lay helpless, but no one could be found who would undertake the deed. Then they joined together to seize the government, and the President learning of this and knowing that when the new commission came his office would be taken from him and he would be falsely accused of many things, gave up the weary fight—perhaps his pain was so great he gave up all hope

of recovery—and took passage on a ship which was going back to England the next day. The presidency he handed over to Master Percy, one of the best of the colonists; for the rest he told them their confusion was at hand and never would he give up his office to such as they. Then sick and disappointed he, their only wise leader, left the colony he had so loved and worked for.

Two of his most loyal soldiers have paid him the following tribute in their account of what happened.

“What shall I say but thus we lost him, that in all his proceedings made justice his first guide, and experience his second, even hating baseness, sloth, pride, and indignity worse than any dangers; that never allowed more for himself than for his soldiers with him; that upon no danger would send them where he would not lead them himself; that would never see us want what he either had or could by any means get us; that would rather want than borrow,

or starve than not pay; that loved action more than words, and hated falsehood and covetousness worse than death; whose adventures were our lives and whose loss our deaths." What better praise could a leader have from his followers than these brave words? Those who were faithful to him remained so through all his troubles, and honestly mourned his loss.

When John Smith went back to England, Jamestown, thanks to his persistence, was strongly fortified and contained fifty or sixty houses. Besides this there were several other forts and plantations nearby, all in good condition. Then a peace had been established with the Indians which might easily have been kept up had Smith's successors been as wise as he in dealing with the uncertain natives. Different industries such as glass and tar-making had been started and were well under way, and the colony seemed at last fairly established. The best proof of Smith's value and wisdom in leadership is shown by what hap-

pened in the colony the year after he left it, when it was without his devoted care and guidance.

XV.

JOHN SMITH, ADMIRAL OF NEW ENGLAND.

For the next few years we hear no word of this brave man. Without doubt his wound kept him inactive for some time, then we imagine there were visits to Willoughby and to old friends in England. He spent much time in writing, chiefly accounts of his travels, and in 1612 his map of Virginia was published. The Map itself is a most remarkable thing, both curious and surprisingly accurate; and we see in it the result of the voyages of discovery which he took up and down the rivers and around Chesapeake Bay.

To the Map is added "A Description of the Country, the Commodities, People, Government, and Religion." This contains many accounts of the Indians and

their interesting customs and is well worth reading.

Smith's interest in the new continent never grew less, and in the year 1614, eager to see another part of the wonderful country, he sailed on the 3rd of March with two ships for the coast of New England,—little explored as yet. This he says was an expedition to take whales, and to investigate a mine of gold and copper one of the sailing masters had told him of. There had been an attempt in 1607 on the part of some merchants to found a colony on the northern coast of New England, but it was given up within a year and the country pronounced “a cold, barren, mountainous, rocky desert.” Later on some ships had gone to fish near Cape Cod, and Smith hearing of these attempts and because he had so loved Virginia, desired to see this country also and so made arrangements with three merchants to take command of this expedition for whales, minerals, fish and furs.

In April they arrived at the Island of Monhegan but the whales were a disappointment. Though they saw many and spent much time in chasing them, they caught very few and then found them to be not the kind which yields oil, and so useless. For the gold, it was a sea-captain's dream, and they had spent so much time in whale-chasing that the season for getting the best cargo of fish and fur had passed. Captain Smith with eight others in a small boat scoured the coast looking for furs while the sailors were fishing, and by their united efforts the ships returned after an absence of six months with a fair cargo of both those articles. But the most remarkable achievement again was Captain Smith's, for he brought back with him notes for a map of the coast and a description of the country; and he gave it a name, New England, which has clung to it to this day.

On his way back to London Smith's ship touched at Plymouth, England, and there

he was offered command of a fleet to sail for this same coast the following summer, which offer he gladly accepted. In London the merchants considered this voyage a great success though Smith spoke of it as a failure. They fitted up four ships almost immediately and offered the command of them to Smith; but he had already promised the Plymouth merchants and considered that a better port from which to sail, so angering the London company not a little.

But when he and six other gentlemen—probably some of his old companions in Virginia who had remained his friends—all well provided with money, presented themselves to the Plymouth merchants, they found that these worthies had changed their minds. A short time before a Plymouth ship had returned from an unsuccessful search for a gold mine which had been promised its owners by a captive Indian. When this ship had neared the American coast, the Indian who was

acting as guide leapt overboard and swam ashore and no more was heard of him or his mine. This disappointment dampened the enthusiasm of the Plymouth Company and they gave up all their plans including the fleet they had promised to Smith, so he lost both that and the London opportunity. He resolved therefore to spend no more time in discovery or in fishing, but to direct all his efforts toward founding another colony. "The good of my country is that I seek," he writes, "and there is more than enough (land and food) for all if they could be contented."

But Virginia was destined to be Captain Smith's only colony. In June of the year 1615, with "a labyrinth of trouble" he succeedeth in obtaining in Plymouth two small ships for himself and the same six gentlemen, and off they sailed for New England. Before the ship which Smith was on board of had sailed many miles a storm seized her and he was forced to return to Plymouth or sink. There he transferred his

men and provisions to a smaller boat and they started again only to fall this time into the hands of pirates. The captain of the first ship they were chased by was an Englishman and though his was a larger and better equipped vessel, Smith succeeded in making terms with him, for if his terms were not accepted he said he would sink his own ship, so depriving the free-booters of any spoil whatever. On board the pirate ship were some adventurers who had known Captain Smith and probably fought under him in the wars against the Turks, perhaps in Transylvania. They still remembered his courage and skill in leadership and begged him to take command of them, and promised that with their help he could take the ship wherever he wanted to. Not wishing to turn pirate and still full of his scheme for a colony, he refused their offer; besides if they were willing to mutiny against their present captain he could hardly trust their continued faithfulness to any one commander.

Having fairly escaped that peril, a little farther on—for Smith seems to have taken the old route through the Canaries,—they met two French pirates and all on board wished to surrender at once, for they were frightened at thought of the unequal fight. But Smith, mindful perhaps of that former fight near the Azores with the big Spanish ships, refused to yield till all the powder was gone—he would blow up his ship first; and by skilful sailing the little vessel managed to get away.

A little farther on they met four French men-of-war. The captain was not particularly alarmed at this, for there was peace between France and England, and as the custom was he went on board the admiral's ship to show his papers and prove his right to his ship. There to his amazement he was kept a prisoner, his boat rifled, and his crew distributed among the French fleet which was shortly reinforced by several other ships.

This was a great blow to the would-be colonists who still looked forward to New England; but when at last Smith's ship was restored to him the sailors on board mutinied and insisted on going back to Plymouth. The excitement had been too much for them; they were superstitious and probably believed bad luck had come to stay. The rest of the company were willing to stand by their leader and the sailors, fearing perhaps that he would prevail, as he so often did, and force them to continue the dangerous journey, hatched a successful plot. They told the commanders of the fleet that Smith was only waiting to get to America to revenge himself for this injury on all the French he should meet near Newfoundland, where the fishing was very valuable to their nation. The French took alarm at this, for any interruption to their fisheries meant great loss of money. They persuaded Smith by some means or other to come aboard the Admiral's ship again, and then it started off in chase of

a fancied prize while Smith's own ship set sail with all haste for Plymouth.

This was the last straw. Though the French commander regarded it as an accident and promised to set him ashore at the next convenient point of the Azores, among which islands they were now sailing and where he would soon be picked up by some passing English vessel, the valiant captain seems to have lost heart. The French fleet cruised about the islands looking for prizes, and fighting both friends and enemies; there was often little to choose between war ships and pirates in those days. Smith tells us how he stayed a prisoner in the cabin during the first of the many fights the fleet engaged in, and kept himself from despair by writing down his *Description of New England*. He must have done this largely from memory, and the accuracy with which he notes all the capes, bays, and islands is quite wonderful.

In this book which was published a year or so later, he describes in a vivid way all

the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, and some of the statements are very interesting. The northern part of the coast, now Maine, consists of such high craggy cliffs and stony isles that he wondered how such great trees could grow on these hard foundations. "It is a country rather to affright than to delight one." Surely parts of the New England coast never were better described. All along the coast he called the capes and islands by their Indian names with a few exceptions, two of which are of great interest: *Cape Tragabigzanda*, later named Cape Anne by the Prince of Wales, and the *Three Turks Isles*.

The more southern part of the coast, nearer Cape Cod, Smith was much charmed with and thus describes it: "And surely by reason of those sandy gardens and corn fields, and so well inhabited with a goodly, strong, and well-proportioned people, besides the greatness of the timber growing on them, the greatness of the fish, and the moderate temper of the air who can

but approve this a most excellent place, both for health and fertility? And of all the four parts of the world that I have yet seen not inhabited, could I have but means to transport a colony, I would rather live here than anywhere; and if it did not maintain itself, were we but once indifferently well fitted, let us starve.”

Then he goes on to praise the fishing and to advise those who wish wealth to devote themselves to that even if it does seem stupid and prosaic, and not go off on a useless and silly search for gold. The natural riches of the land, he says, are great and may be had by anyone who is industrious and persevering. And the truth of his preaching has been proved from that day to this.

But Captain Smith was not to be allowed to spend all his time writing in the cabin. The Frenchmen had heard of his skill as a fighter and commander and were not unwilling to take advantage of their prisoner's ability. So he tells of directing the

encounters of the fleet with Spanish and Dutch vessels, though when they fought and captured English boats, as they did several times, he stayed in the cabin as a prisoner. Finally, instead of being landed on the Azores, he was put on board one of the prizes they had taken and was sent to France. When they had nearly reached the French coast, instead of their promises of freedom and a share in the booty, he was accused of having taken part in the destruction of a French colony in America—which took place after he left Virginia. This charge, which of course they had invented, they said they would declare if he accused his captors before the French court of imprisoning him falsely or of keeping from him the booty they had promised.

This was a hard problem, for Smith knew his innocence of the charge would not be believed and yet he knew that his loss of time and of money should be made good by the Frenchmen. So he took what seemed the only way out of his difficulty, but one which

would have occurred only to the bravest man; and in a storm which kept his captors below decks and wrecked many ships during the night, he escaped in an open boat and was driven out to sea. He kept himself afloat by continuous bailing; then by a fortunate change in the wind he was driven ashore on a muddy island and was found there by hunters, half dead from cold and hunger.

He sold his boat to his rescuers and so got money enough to get to the city of Rochelle where he stated his case before the French court of Admiralty; and happily he found there some sailors from the same fleet who had been shipwrecked in this storm and who would swear to the truth of his statement. He was promised restitution,—which he never got; then going to find the English ambassador, who had gone to Bordeaux to be present at the marriage of the king to a Spanish princess, he met friends who were willing to help him. Among these was another great lady,

Madame Chanoyes, who “bountifully assisted him,” as he wrote later in describing his troubles. Who she was we do not know, but she proved a friend in need and helped him to go back to Plymouth—for he was almost utterly destitute.

In Plymouth, which he reached in December, 1615, he found some of the mutineers, his old sailors who had left him with the French, and saw to it that they were properly punished. All the next year the enthusiastic leader spent in trying to prevail on the merchants in Plymouth to send out a colony, and all through the summer he journeyed up and down the West coast of England distributing his maps and descriptions of Virginia and New England to prepare and excite men’s minds. This unselfish and devoted labor was so far successful that a company was formed, twenty ships were promised Captain Smith for the next year, and he was appointed Admiral of New England for life. You see the name he gave this part of the country

had already been adopted and now we should not know what to do without it.

But promises were all that came of the large plans. Each year a few ships were sent for fish by different merchants and many returned with good cargoes. But the opportunity for the colony never came. Probably when it came to the point not men enough could be found who were willing to risk the necessary amount of money. The age of adventure was past and now when colonists were sent out, it was to be for some other purpose than the sheer love of exploring and settling a new country.

Captain Smith's suggestions to the different companies about founding a colony were both sensible and far-seeing. He very much disapproved of the slave trade; said the unlimited production of tobacco would be an injury both to men and land, which we know now is perfectly true; and always made fun of the excited searchers for gold. He said a colony to be successful should be founded by men of good character, not

renegades and scamps whose friends in England wished to be rid of them. The differences in the experiences in Virginia and in Massachusetts—where the colonists were God-fearing and industrious men and where there were no such quarrels and conspiracies as those which took place in Virginia—proved the truth of this. And he was always emphasizing the great value to England of a foothold on the new continent, where the Spanish and French were already successfully located.

When the Pilgrims set out from Plymouth in 1620, he offered his services to them, but they either could not pay what he asked or they did not want his leadership, for his motives for going were so different from theirs. He afterwards described their experiences and praised their patience and courage, though he declared they suffered from their own ignorance in ways in which he might have been of help to them. And this also was no doubt true.

XVI.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH AND OF HIS INDIAN FRIENDS.

In the mean time things had been going very ill with the colony of Virginia. The peace with the Indians was soon over, ambuscades and skirmishes were frequent, and the thieving which Smith had so completely stopped was constantly going on. A month after he left them there were twenty leaders when there should have been one, and no one among them knew how to get provisions or to deal with the savages. Ratcliffe, now called Sicklemore, went to trade with Powhatan, taking twenty men with him; and all of them relying on the Indians' promises, as Smith never had thought of doing, were slain by the treacherous natives with the exception

of one boy. He was saved by Pocahontas and lived with the Indians for many years.

Finally, the chronicle says, instead of corn and provisions they had nothing from the Indians but mortal wounds with clubs and arrows. Their live-stock was eaten little by little by the starving settlers, even to the horses; and by the next March, only six months after Captain Smith's departure, there were only sixty people left in the colony. These had become most miserable and poor creatures who lived on roots, herbs, and acorns, and some even became cannibals and ate the savages when they could capture one. Until this day this time of horror is called the *starving time*.

Jamestown was in ruins, the inhabitants dying, and the colony would have been completely destroyed had it not been for the arrival of the chief ship of the last expedition, which had been wrecked in the Bermudas, as we read in a previous chapter. Those on board, one hundred and fifty in all, had been most wonderfully pre-

served. While they were in those islands they built a ship, for theirs had been completely wrecked, and reached Virginia in time to save the few colonists who were left.

When Sir Thomas Gates, the head of the commission, saw the miserable condition of the few remaining settlers and the desolation of the settlement, he yielded to the persuasions of Ratcliffe and Martin, who had been the principal causers of this desolation, and gave orders to abandon the colony. On the 7th of June they all set sail for England, leaving, they supposed forever, this foothold on the new continent. John Smith and the few who were faithful to him had spent so much strength to gain.

But his work was not destined to be lost. The ship had hardly left the bay before it met a fleet of three ships commanded by Lord Delaware, who had been appointed Governor of Virginia, and they all sailed back to Jamestown. Under the wise guid-

ance of the new governor, who continued in many ways the policy of Captain Smith, the colony grew stronger each year. In 1618 Smith's old friend Powhatan died, foreseeing without doubt, wise old savage that he was, the final possession of his beloved lands by these white strangers. Powhatan was over seventy when he died. He is described as a tall thin man with a stern face, very strong and able to endure great hardships. He had kept faith with the English pretty well considering his suspicions of their purpose in coming to his country, and will always be one of the most interesting figures in our early history.

The peace originally made with Opechancanough was renewed by the new governor, but in 1622 a terrible massacre of the English took place, led by this old savage. There was much talk of this in England and Smith wrote to the heads of the company in London to tell them his plan for subduing the Indians and to offer his

services for the purpose. He asked for one hundred soldiers and thirty sailors, not a great number with which to overcome a whole nation, but the company replied that the colony was not paying them well and they could not afford the outlay. Smith's plan shows that he thoroughly understood Indian warfare and was about the only man of that time who did. There is no doubt but that he had a genius for fighting, and the pity is that it could not have been more useful to England as he so greatly desired it to be.

At several other times in the history of the Virginia colony he made suggestions to the company or offered to take charge of expeditions, but though his advice was occasionally asked and followed, there never seemed to be just the place there for him. We suspect this was for two reasons; Captain Smith was naturally a leader and an imperious one at that; he did not work well with others but did his best work when he alone was responsible for the results

and there was no one to dispute him. Then he was not of noble birth and at that time in England the positions which he wished and was best fitted for were as a rule only granted to noblemen. He was in several ways in advance of his times, and if he had lived some years later when the colonies were beginning to assert their independence, his services to America would have been better appreciated.

There is another of John Smith's Indian friends whom we must not leave without some account of her remarkable life. In many ways Pocahontas continued to befriend the English after Captain Smith's departure, though she was never seen at Jamestown. In 1614, Captain Argall, who had visited the colony once before when Smith was president, went to trade with the Indians on the River Potawomek. Learning from an Indian whom he knew well that Pocahontas was visiting in the neighborhood, and thinking that if he could take her prisoner the power of the English

over Powhatan would be unlimited, Captain Argall bribed this Indian by the promise of a copper kettle to entice the Princess on board his ship. This was done with ease, the Indian girl suspecting no evil; as indeed why should she who had always been a friend to the English? But once on the ship she was told that she must stay, and the Indian betrayer and his wife, who was in the plot, were sent merrily back to their home with the copper kettle.

When the ship reached Jamestown, word was sent to Powhatan that his daughter could be ransomed only by his returning all the English prisoners he had taken and the tools and arms he had so treacherously stolen. "This unwelcome news troubled Powhatan because he loved both his daughter and our commodities well, yet it was three months before he returned any answer." Then he sent back seven English prisoners and a few old guns, saying that when his daughter was returned he would send the other things together with five

hundred bushels of corn. But the English had learned their lesson and knew better than to trust him, so sent back word that his daughter would be well-used but kept at Jamestown till all stolen articles had been received. Another effort was made later by the English to effect an exchange, but Powhatan could not be found and the impression was that he was satisfied with the kind treatment his daughter was receiving and preferred the English guns!

In the mean time an Englishman, John Rolfe, "an honest gentleman and of good behaviour," had fallen in love with the Indian girl and she with him. Their marriage was consented to by the governor, Sir Thomas Dale, and word was sent to Powhatan and his permission asked. Though no direct word was received from the Indian chief the marriage was evidently acceptable to him also, for an old uncle of Pocahontas was present at the wedding as well as two of her brothers, and many gifts were sent. The chronicle goes on to say,

“And ever since we have had friendly trade and commerce as well with Powhatan himself as all his subjects.”

From a letter written by Sir Thomas Dale we learn how carefully her husband instructed the gentle Pocahontas in Christianity which she seemed eager to learn about, and that she openly renounced the Indian idolatry and strange customs. Also that she had for her husband a true affection and had no desire to return to her own nation, greatly preferring the society of the English. She had been told that Captain Smith was dead, why we do not know, unless it was because she had always called him her father and in her affection and loyalty to him would not consent to this marriage with Rolfe without first obtaining his permission. Some writers think that she was in love with the man she had saved, but there is no real reason to think so. He was much older than the little Princess and had always regarded her as a child. There is no doubt that his gentle

kindness won her heart and that she felt for him a great affection, but it was more as a father or elder brother than as a lover.

The 12th of June, 1616, Master Rolfe and his Indian wife reached England and while they were there their son Thomas was born. Pocahontas had been taught English and was now called the Lady Rebecca. Every one was much interested in her and the treasurer of the Virginia company was ordered to set aside money as a sort of allowance for herself and her child. Some even believed that Rolfe, an untitled Englishman, should not have been permitted to wed a king's daughter, showing to what extent the feeling for royalty was carried at that time. When Captain Smith heard of her arrival he wrote a letter* to Queen Anne about her, telling her of the coming of Powhatan's daughter and of all she had done for the Jamestown colony.

Lady Rebecca was received with much kindness by persons of high rank, and

*See Appendix, p. 283.

many entertainments were given for her. But the fogs of London were bad for her health, accustomed as she was to the clear air and out-door life in the Virginia forests, and her husband took her to Brentford, a Devonshire town, in the hope that she would grow strong again. There Captain Smith found her as he was on his way to Plymouth to join the expedition to New England he had planned for. Pocahontas was evidently deeply grieved at the deception which had been practised on her, for after the first greeting she refused to talk to her old friend but turned away her face.

After a few hours, during which the honest captain was feeling somewhat uncomfortable and "repenting himself to have writ she could speak English," she began to talk, reminding Smith of all she had done for him in the Jamestown days. Smith had called Powhatan, father, she said, so she should call Captain Smith father. And though he refused the title, feeling that he, a commoner, had no right

to the name from a king's daughter, yet she insisted; saying, with what gentleness and sweetness we can well imagine: "You were not afraid to come into my father's country and caused fear in him and all his people—but me; and fear you here I should call you father; I tell you then I will, and you shall call me child, and so I will be forever and ever your countryman. They did tell me always you were dead, and I knew nothing different till I came to Plymouth, yet Powhatan did command Uttamatomakkin (an Indian who had come to England with her) to seek and know the truth; because your countrymen will lie much."

There is an amusing story about this same Uttamatomakkin. He was one of Powhatan's council, and had been ordered by his chief to number the Englishmen and to report on the condition of the country. When he reached Plymouth he got a long stick and tried to keep tally of all the men he met, but was quickly weary of the task

and reported to his master that they were as the sands of the sea. When Smith met him in London he asked the white man many questions and wished to see his God, and his king, queen, and prince. Smith told him about God as well as he could and then said that he had seen the king, as indeed he had when he first reached London. At first the Indian would not believe him, but when he was satisfied that it really was the king he said sadly, "You gave Powhatan a white dog, which Powhatan fed as himself; but your king gave me nothing, and I am better than your white dog."

While Pocahontas was in London Captain Smith went several times to see her and says that "it pleased both the King's and Queen's majesties honourably to esteem her." And she would have received and deserved more honors if she had lived to arrive in Virginia. But the next year, embarking for America on the good ship *George*, with her husband, it "pleased God

to take the Lady Pocahontas to his mercy." She died very suddenly before the ship was fairly under way, and was buried at Gravesend. Her little son was left in charge of a noble gentleman in Plymouth who wished to bring him up. Later he went to Virginia and several well-known Americans claim their descent from him.

It is hard to believe that active life is over for our hero. If he had been willing to go on trading voyages or had tried to get men interested in the search for wealth, he could probably have taken out many ships. But his heart was set on establishing another colony and for that only would he work. He realized this state of things himself, for he writes: "Had my designs been to have persuaded men to a mine of gold, as I know many have done who know no such matter (though few so conceive either the charge or pains in refining it or the power or care to defend it); or some new invention to pass to the South Sea, or some strange plot to invade some strange

monastery, or some chargeable fleet to take some rich carracks (merchant ships); or letters of marque to rob some poor merchant or honest fisherman,—what multitudes of both people and money would contend to be first employed.”

And from now on we only know of him through his writings. His experiences were enough to take the heart out of most men, but John Smith was not embittered and only says of all the distresses that he had passed through, “If you but truly consider how many strange accidents have befallen these plantations (meaning Virginia) and myself, you cannot but conceive God’s infinite mercies both to them and to me. Having been a slave to the Turks, prisoner among the most barbarous savages, . . . and yet to have lived near thirty-seven years in the midst of wars, pestilences, and famine, by which many a hundred thousand have died about me, and scarce five living of them that went with me to Virginia . . . though I have but my

labor for my pains, have I not much reason publicly and privately to acknowledge it and give good thanks?"

When some hinted that he could not secure a fleet to lead to New England because he was unlucky,—and certainly when we think of his last attempt, the pirates and the French Men-of-War, there seems some reason for such a belief,—he replied to them at some length and with scorn. If these fortune-tellers, as he called them, had spent their time as he had, they would consider that life is ruled over by God and not by chance; and if they considered all that he had done and that he had finally left Virginia in such good shape after its long struggle, they would not call him *unlucky*; but studying into the causes of the troubles in that colony would see that there is *reason* in all things.

In 1824 he wrote a "Brief Relation to his Majestie's Commissioners for the Reformation of Virginia, concerning some aspersions against it." In this Relation he

stated plainly all the reasons for the hard struggle in the colony, and what he suggested as the best remedy for existing conditions. One of John Smith's most notable characteristics was his fearless independence of thought and speech. He was afraid of no man, be he one of Powhatan's warriors or a royal commissioner. This letter of his was so wise and straightforward that the commissioners sent him several questions to answer which he did with the same honesty and sagacity, and so was of help to the colony even though he could not be there in person.

From this year until his death he continued to write descriptions of his travels, and words of advice to seamen, colonists, and soldiers. Many of these showed opinions far in advance of his time, and proved him a thinker as well as a doer. Just before his death he showed his love for everything connected with salt water by beginning a History of the Sea, but this was

never finished nor can any of the manuscript be found.

He died in London on the 21st of June, 1631, in the house of Sir John Saltonstall, one of his warm friends. He was only fifty-one, not an old man by any means, but without question all the hardships he had been through had sapped his vitality. In his will, made the day before his death, we see that he had not used up all his property in his adventures but had enough to pay his debts and his funeral expenses, and then to distribute some in legacies. He was buried in St. Sepulchre's Church in London and there is now an elaborate epitaph above his tomb, beginning,

*"Here lies one conquered who hath conquered kings,"**

But his best epitaph is his own signature to the dedication of one of his books,

"To Christ and my Country a true Soldier, and faithfull Servant."

It is a great pity that so much attention

*See Appendix, p. 287.

has been paid to Captain Smith's experience with Pocahontas, for that is not the most important thing in his life, though perhaps it is the most picturesque. Rather we should remember him for his real patriotism, his honesty and devotion to duty, his unselfish leadership of the struggling little Jamestown settlement. No one pioneer has done more for the establishment of the English in this country, yet how little we really know of him and how unfairly we have judged him,—for we have always thought of him simply as the man who was saved by Pocahontas.

Opinionated and self-willed he probably was, and too eager for praise and for places of command; yet when he was in authority his wisdom and patience were unfailing, and his kindness to the weak and dependent was as sure as was his stern justice toward the guilty. In spite of his exaggerations and frequent boasting we must surely reckon him to be one of our greatest colonists.

APPENDIX.

The letter sent to the Treasurer of the Virginia Company in London by Captain Smith when he was President of Virginia in the year 1608.

Right Honorable, etc.

I received your letter wherein you write that our minds are so set upon faction and idle conceits in dividing the country without your consents; and that we feed you but with ifs and ands, hopes and some few proofs; as if we would keep the mystery of the business to ourselves: and that we must expressly follow your instructions sent by Captain Newport, the charge of whose voyage amounts to near two thousand pounds; the which if we cannot defray by the ship's return, we are like to remain as banished men. To these particulars I humbly entreat your pardons if I offend you with my rude answer.

For our factions, unless you would have me run away and leave the country, I cannot prevent them: because I do make many stay that would else fly anywhere. For the idle letter sent to my Lord of Salisbury by the President (Ratcliffe) and his confederates for dividing the country, etc. What it was I know not for you saw no hand of mine to it; nor ever dream't I of any such matter. That we feed you with hopes, etc. I have not concealed from you anything I know; but I fear some cause you to believe much more than is true.

Expressly to follow your directions by Captain Newport, though they be performed I was directly against it; but according to our commission I was content to be overruled by the major part of the council, I fear to the hazard of us all; which now is generally confessed when it is too late.

For the charge of this voyage of two or three thousand pounds, we have not received the value of a hundred pounds. And for the boat to be borne by the soldiers over the Falls, Newport had 120 of the best men he could choose. If he had burnt her to ashes one might have carried her in a bag; but as she is five hundred can-

not, to a navigable place above the Falls. And for him to find at that time in the South Sea, a mine of gold, or any of them sent by Sir Walter Raleigh; at our consultation I told them was as likely as the rest. But during this great discovery of thirty miles they had the pinnace and all the boats with them, but one that remained with me to serve the Fort.

For the coronation of Powhatan, by whose advice you sent him such presents I know not; but this give me leave to tell you, I fear they will be the confusion of us all ere we hear from you again. At your ship's arrival, the *Salvages'* harvest was newly gathered, and we going to buy it; our own being not half sufficient for so great a number. As for the two ships' loading of corn Newport promised to provide us from Powhatan, he brought us but fourteen bushels; and from the Monacans, nothing, but the most of the men sick and near famished. And from your ship we had not provision in victuals worth twenty pound, and we are more than two hundred to live upon this; the one half sick, the other little better. For the sailors (I confess) they daily make good cheer, but our diet is a little meal and water and not sufficient of

that. Though there be fish in the sea, fowls in the air, and beasts in the wood, their bounds are so large, they so wild, and we so weak and ignorant, we cannot much trouble them. Captain Newport we much suspect to be the author of those inventions.

Now that you should know, I have made you as great a discovery as he, for less charge than he spendeth you every meal; I have sent you this Map of the Bay and Rivers, with an annexed Relation of the Countries and Nations that inhabit them (see page 176). . . . Also two barrels of stones, and such as I take to be good iron ore at the least, so divided as you may see by their notes in what places I found them. . . . Captain Ratcliffe is now called Sicklemore, a poor counterfeited imposture. I have sent you him home, lest the company should cut his throat. What he is, now everyone can tell you; if he and Archer return again, they are sufficient to keep us always in factions.

When you send again, I entreat you rather send but thirty carpenters, husbandmen, gardeners, fishermen, blacksmiths, masons, and diggers up of trees and roots, well-provided, than a thousand of such as we have; for except we

be able both to lodge them and feed them, the most will consume with want of necessaries, before they can be made good for anything.

Thus if you please to consider this account and of the unnecessary wages to Captain Newport, or his ships so long lingering and staying here, ... or yet to send into Germany or Poland for glass-men and the rest, till we be able to sustain ourselves, and relieve them when they come. For in overtoiling our weak and unskilful bodies to satisfy this desire of present profit, we can scarce ever recover ourselves from one supply to another.

And I humbly entreat you hereafter, let us know what we should receive, and not stand to the sailors' courtesy to leave us what they please; else you may charge us with what you will, but we not you with anything.

These are the causes that have kept us in Virginia from laying such a foundation that ere this might have given much better content and satisfaction; but as yet you must not look for any profitable returns: so I humbly rest.

Letter written by Captain Smith to the Queen, when Pocahontas came to London with her husband in the year 1616.

To the most high and virtuous Princess,
Queen Anne of Great Britain.

Most admired Queen,

The love I bear my God, my King, and Country, hath so oft emboldened me in the worst of extreme dangers, that now honesty doth constrain me to presume thus far beyond my self, to present your Majesty this short discourse: if ingratitude be a deadly poison to all honest virtues, I must be guilty of that crime if I should omit any means to be thankful.

So it is,

That some ten years ago being in Virginia, and taken prisoner by the power of Powhatan, their chief king, I received from this great *Salvage* exceeding great courtesy, especially from his son, Nantaquaus, the most manliest, comeliest, boldest spirit, I ever saw in a *Salvage*, and his sister, Pocahontas, the king's most dear and well-beloved daughter, being but a child of twelve or thirteen years of age, whose compassionate pitiful heart, of my desperate estate gave

me much cause to respect her: I being the first Christian this proud king and his grim attendants ever saw: and thus enthralled in their barbarous power, I cannot say I felt the least occasion of want that was in the power of those, my mortal foes, to prevent, notwithstanding all their threats. After some six weeks, fattening among those *Salvage* courtiers, at the minute of my execution, she hazarded the beating out of her own brains to save mine; and not only that but so prevailed with her father, that I was safely conducted to Jamestown: where I found about eight and thirty miserable, poor, and sick creatures to keep possession of all those large territories of Virginia; such was the weakness of this poor Commonwealth, as had the Savages not fed us, we directly had starved. And this relief, most gracious Queen, was commonly brought us by this Lady Pocahontas.

Notwithstanding all these passages, when inconstant Fortune turned our peace to war, this tender virgin would still not spare to dare to visit us, and by her our jars have oft been appeased and our wants still supplied; were it the policy of her father thus to employ her, or the ordinance of God thus to make her His instru-

ment, or her extraordinary affection to our nation, I know not: but of this I am sure; when her father with the utmost of his policy and power, sought to surprise me (see page 216) having but eighteen with me, the dark night could not affright her from coming through the irksome woods, and with watered eyes gave me intelligence, with her best advice to escape his fury; which had he known, he had surely slain her.

Jamestown, with her wild train, she as freely frequented as her father's habitation; and during the time of two or three years (1608-9) she next under God, was still the instrument to preserve this Colony from death, famine, and utter confusion.

About two years after (April 1613) she herself was taken prisoner; being so detained near two years longer, the Colony by that means was relieved, peace concluded; and at last rejecting her barbarous condition, she was married (in 1614) to an English gentleman with whom at this present she is in England; the first Christian ever of that nation, the first Virginian ever spake English.

Thus, most gracious lady, I have related to

your Majesty what at your best leisure our approved histories will account you at large, and done in the time of your Majesty's life; and however this might be presented you from a more worthy pen it cannot from a more honest heart; and it is my want of ability and her exceeding desert, your birth, means, and authority, her birth, virtue, want, and simplicity does make me thus bold humbly to beseech your Majesty to take this knowledge of her, though it be from one so unworthy to be the reporter as myself, her husband's estate not being able to make her fit to attend your Majesty. If she should not be well received, seeing this kingdom may rightly have a kingdom by her means; her present love to us and Christianity might turn to such scorn and fury, as to divert all this good to the worst of evil; whereas, finding so great a Queen should do her some honor more than she can imagine would so ravish her with content, as endear her dearest blood (make it her greatest desire) to effect that which your Majesty and all the King's honest subjects most earnestly desire.

And so I humbly kiss your gracious hands.

Epitaph to Captain John Smith in St.
Sepulcher's Church in London.

To the Living Memory of his deceased Friend,
Captain JOHN SMITH, who departed this
mortall life on the 21 day of June, 1631.

With his Armes, and this Motto,
Accordamus. Vincere est vivere.

Here lies one conquered that hath conquered
Kings,
Subdu'd large Territories, and done things
Which to the World impossible would seem,
But that the truth is held in more esteem.

Shall I report his former service done
In honour of his God and Christendome;
How that he did divide from Pagans three,
Their Heads, and Lives, Types of his Chivalrie:
For which great service in that Climate done,
Brave Sigismundus (King of Hungarion)
Did give him as a Coat of Armes to wear,
Those conquer'd heads, got by his Sword and
Spear?

Or shall I tell of his adventures since,
Done in Virginia, that large Continnence:
How that he subdu'd Kings unto his yoke,

And made those Heathen flie as wind does
 smoke;

And made their Land, being of so large a sta-
 tion,

A habitation for our Christian Nation:

Where God is glorified, their wants suppli'd,
 Which else for necessaries might have died?

But what avails his Conquest, now he lies
 Inter'd in earth, a prey for Wormes and Flies?
 O may his soul in sweet Elizium sleep,
 Untill the Keeper that all soules doth keepe,
 Return to Judgement, and that after thence,
 With Angels he may have his recompence.

Captain John Smith, sometime Governour
 of Virginia, and Admirall of
 New England.

AUG 10 1907

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 443 924 7 ●